

THE DOMESTIC MILITARY DEPLOYMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN DEFENCE  
FORCE: 1990-2019

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## **Abstract**

The research focused on the analysis of the military domestic deployment in Namibia from 1990-2019. The study harnessed insights from the national security approach to ground the research. The study objectives were to investigate the nature of the deployment of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) in internal security operations in Namibia, to assess the challenges of deployment of the military in internal security operations in Namibia and to enhance the strategic efficacy of the NDF in their deployment in internal security operations in Namibia. The researcher used a qualitative approach that was exploratory by design. Moreover, thirty (30) participants were sampled for this study. Data was analysed through the thematic approach method. Research findings show that the nature of the deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia is characterised by dealing with National Security Threats, Joint Crime Prevention Operations and Response to National Disasters. Findings also showed that the challenges of domestic deployment of the NDF for maintaining and preserving internal security operations in Namibia include but are not limited to the lack of training, lack of proper orientation, lack of equipment, lack of clear strategies and tactics as well as limited budgets. Based on the findings, it is suggesting measures that emergency budgets, provision of training and civil operations orientation and provision of equipment be implemented.

**Keywords:** Military, Domestic, National Security, Deployment, Operation, Strategic and Tactics, Internal Security.

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## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

<b>CDF</b>	-	Chief of Defence Force
<b>DoD</b>	-	Department of Defence
<b>HST</b>	-	Human Security Theory
<b>MOD</b>	-	Ministry of Defence
<b>NDF</b>	-	Namibia Defence Force
<b>PLAN</b>	-	People's Liberation Army of Namibia
<b>UNDP</b>	-	United Nations Development Programme
<b>USA</b>	-	United States of America

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## **Dedications**

This work is dedicated to Almighty God and to all who have supported me throughout the process. I also dedicate this to my beloved husband and children, for their love, support and sacrifices.

## **Declarations**

I, Veronika Nangula Showa hereby declare that this study is my own investigation and is a true reflection of my research and that this work, or any part thereof has not been submitted for a degree at any other institution.

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## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The rising spate of higher levels of organised crime as well as the systematic rise of new internal security threats escalating to human security, therefore necessitating the domestic deployment of the military in internal security operations in both developing and developed countries (Robertson, 2017). In recent times the military has been involved in internal security operations. As Buckley (2019) submits, internal security threats are diverse and include domestic terrorism, armed robbery, drug trafficking, poaching of wildlife, organised crime etc. Militaries worldwide have been engaged to play the non-traditional military role whereby they carry out internal security jointly with the police and other agencies to combat new threats (Robert, 2017).

Dandenker (2016) contends that in addition to the conventional and core mission of defending national sovereignty. Military forces are required to engage in an ever-increasing number of peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and to perform law enforcement tasks related to the fight against organized crime, trafficking and terrorism. The military's involvement in civil operations informs the need for good civil-military relations. The military usually encounters problems in adjusting their role when dealing with civil operations (Esterhuyse, 2019).

Namibia is not an exception, the first president of Namibia deployed the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) personnel to assist in internal security operations, for example, the NDF responded to separatist agitations in the Zambezi region in 1999 (LAC, 2020; Liebenberg, Kruijt & Paranjpe, 2020). Nevertheless, the adeptness as well as the strategic efficacy of

the military in joint internal security operations within Namibia have become highly questionable (LAC, 2020). Notably, the NDF has been engaged in numerous domestic deployments to address internal security challenges such as poaching, cross-border crimes, flood, drought, locust infestation, wildfires and combating crime. Owing to the deployment of soldiers to work with the police in the maintenance and preservation of internal security operations, there have been public outcries to the effect that the military uses brutal and unnecessary force (LAC, 2020). This has raised concerns regarding the strategic efficacy as well as the justification of such internal operations which exhibit the heavy-handedness of the military instead of maintaining internal security. Despite the above-outlined concerns, no study to the best knowledge of the researcher has been conducted to evaluate the strategic efficacy of military involvement during domestic deployment in the context of Namibia.

Experience from developed countries, the Middle East for example Iraq, and Iran and emerging democracies shows that stiff competition over issues of legitimacy, autonomy and sovereignty can threaten the internal security of a nation. Notably, the notion of domestic military deployment of armed forces intensified drawing lessons from the international terror attack on the United States on 9/11 and the consequent ascent of international terror in countries such as Israel, India, France, Britain, Nigeria and Kenya (Esterhuyse, 2019, p. 4).

In Africa, porous borders, insurgent movements, poverty, social inequality and underdevelopment have been creating a high degree of insecurity (Aregbesola, 2018, p. 2). Violent conflict, whether social, political, or environmental issues have contributed significantly to internal security crisis in many nations including Sub-Saharan Africa.

Internal crisis is not a new phenomenon in Namibia. The engagement or preservation of internal security operations traditionally carried out by non-military actors raises the question of the strategic efficacy of the military in domestic deployment. In Namibia, the NDF is not an exception as they are also involved in internal security operations. Article 115 of the Namibian Constitution led to the creation of the NDF with its secondary role which is to assist civil authorities and communities during emergencies and restore order when called upon to do so by the President (Liebenberg, Kruijt & Paranjpe, 2020).

The NDF responded to separatist agitations in the Zambezi region in the 1990s. In August 1999, armed men belonging to the Caprivi Liberation Movement (CLM) launched an attack on government installations in Katima Mulilo, to bring about the secession of the then Caprivi region (now Zambezi region) from Namibia (Liebenberg, Kruijt & Paranjpe, 2020). The insurrection was rapidly, and over-zealously, put down by the government particularly the NDF supported by the Namibian Police Special Reserve Force. The CLM was reported to have aimed attacks at the police headquarters, the Mpacha Military base, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation building and the Wenela immigration post. Ironically, the NDF responded swiftly and contained the insurgency, leading to the arrest of more than 140 people while at least 14 individuals were killed (Melber, 2009).

The Namibian military has also intervened in response to issues relating to climate change such as wildfire, floods and drought. According to Mapowe (2017), the NDF has been actively involved in fighting bushfires, locust or pest outbreaks, floods and drought as well as providing assistance in emergency relief supplies of food, medicines, clothes, tents and evacuation of victims. In support of this fact, Shaw (2018) argues that armed forces

worldwide have often been used to deal with crises such as floods and hurricanes which affect sections of the civilian population. Moreover, the NDF has responded to that role through the provision of manned transport, high-impact deployment of personnel and communications equipment at short notice, because their training has equipped them to deal with similar situations in the military context.

Furthermore, Mapowe (2017) contends that in November 2011, when floods took place in the Northern parts of the country, most areas were not accessible by road, and hence could only be accessible employing NDF helicopters or boats. As a result, the inaccessibility of the affected areas by the floods had a negative impact on flood operations. Most school children were evacuated and accommodated in relocation centres while others were camped at their respective schools. Since many of the remote areas could not be reached by road, health officials (nurses and medical doctors) were transported by NDF helicopters or boats to offer health services in the affected areas (Mapowe, 2017).

In addition, Mapowe (2017) further contends that it was a challenge to visit all affected areas, however, there were no major health-related problems encountered during the operations. The logistics department during the flood disaster experienced a variety of problems ranging from limited logistical supplies to overstretched resources. Of note, the NDF was instrumental in the transportation of 10 emergency supplies from national level to the affected regions and in accessing the inaccessible areas. It could be further stated, that without NDF support many victims of this natural disaster could have lost their lives. NDF provided helicopters and trucks that assisted in evacuating people, delivering relief items and health services to people cut off by the floods (Mapowe, 2017).

Namibia Defence Force Journal (2016) specifies that close to three hundred (300) soldiers from the Engineering Regiment joined Dr Sam Nujoma the Founding President to render assistance to clear the Ondangwa-Oshikango railway line project. One of the objectives in all areas of national interest is social responsibility. Additionally, more than six hundred (600) recruits at Oluno Military base joined the community of Ondangwa Township in the cleaning campaign of the town. The campaign was organised by the Ondangwa town council with the purpose of cleaning and keeping the town clean. The recruits led by their instructors and military police paraded through Uupopo and Omakulukuma locations down to the tar road to clean the area on 24 October 2014. It is enshrined in the Namibia constitution, chapter 15 Article 115 that the role of the Namibian Defence Force is to assist the local authorities in domestic support operations when required which includes such campaigns (Government of the Republic of Namibia, 1990).

Moreover, Robertson (2017) argues that the military faces significant challenges when deployed for domestic military operations for the preservation and maintenance of internal security. In most cases, their domestic military deployment often brings about significant success but the aspect of excessive or arbitrary use of force is often reported (Hubbard, 2019). This is a result of the military being employed for non-traditional military roles such as maintaining law and order for the preservation of internal security.

More so, Okoli et al. (2013) further argue that the increasing roles taken by the military in internal security operations have been criticized by people who believe that the military is not trained to manage internal operations like other civil authorities such as the police. Against this backdrop, new training methods are needed to empower the military in terms

of civil interaction with the citizenry during domestic deployment. This research sought to examine the NDF's strategic efficacy during military domestic deployment for the preservation of internal security.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Since independence, Namibia has experienced isolated incidents of internal crisis that required military intervention to aid the civilian authorities. The rising spate of higher levels of organised crime as well as the systematic rise of new internal threats to human security has led to the deployment of the NDF in internal security operations (Robertson, 2017). According to LAC (2020), the NDF was deployed domestically to preserve internal security operations, like the case of Operation Kalahari and Hornkranz launched by the late President Hage Geingob in 2018, meant to combat rising crime. Interestingly, these operations were conducted with other security clusters such as Namibian Police, NDF, and Namibian Correctional Service as well as City Police to fight the upsurge of crimes in Windhoek and other major towns more effectively and efficiently (Hubbard, 2019). Nevertheless, the adeptness as well as the strategic efficacy of the military in joint internal security operations within Namibia have become highly questionable (LAC, 2020). Owing to the deployment of soldiers to work with the police in internal security operations, there have been public outcries to the effect that the military uses brutal and unnecessary force whereby the Namibian Government face numerous lawsuits (LAC, 2020; Hubbard, 2019). This has raised concerns regarding the strategic efficacy as well as the justification of such internal operations which exhibit the heavy-handedness of the military instead of maintaining and preserving internal security. With the above said, this study therefore seeks



to examine NDF's domestic deployment for the maintenance and preservation of internal security in Namibia from 1990 to 2019.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The study examined the NDF's domestic deployment for the maintenance and preservation of internal security in Namibia from 1990 to 2019. To achieve this, the following specific objectives were formulated:

- (i) To assess the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia
- (ii) To examine the challenges of domestic military deployment for the preservation of internal security in Namibia.
- (iii) To examine the policies in place for enhance the strategic efficacy of NDF during domestic military deployment.

### **1.4 Significance of the study**

In the contemporary world, the success of state security is dependent upon the successful deployment of the military in curbing or countering threats. Thus, the findings and recommendations of this study will enhance the military domestic deployment strategies in Namibia. The findings of this study will go a long way in assisting policymakers in the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) when identifying the need for revision of the existing policies and programs regarding civil-military relations as well as military interventions. The study will also aid in guiding future researchers and scholars to add to the body of knowledge and academic debate regarding domestic military deployment

in a democratic state. This study is significant because it informs policy stakeholders on how to enhance the strategic efficacy of NDF in their involvement in internal security operations in Namibia.

The study provides empirical data to empower decision-makers and society with possible internal security practices that ensure the sustainable internal peace and safety of civilians. Moreover, the study might also contribute to the body of research by closing the knowledge and awareness gap on the strategic efficacy of NDFs in their involvement in internal security operations.

In Namibia, most of the studies done were just focusing on NDF community projects in broad scope with a few emphasising military interventions since 1990. Thus, the study exposed the challenges to domestic military deployment in Namibia. This study is significant as it helps to solve the most difficult civil-military operations challenges in the security context and expeditiously transitions compelling policies and procedures to the NDF.

### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

Kamhozo (2018) argues that limitations of the study are perceived constraints in characteristics of design or methodology that impact or influence the interpretation of findings. One of the limitations is that the study focused on human beings as a unit of analysis. It is difficult to study human beings when you are one of them because of researcher bias. Moreover, once people notice that they are under study they may alter their responses. In that regard, the researcher did not have control over information the

participants gave or withheld. To overcome these limitations, the researcher applied the ethical principle of no disclosure of participant information.

This study was carried out in the general areas of Windhoek. As such, the results of the study may not be generalizable to other settings. Due to the confidential nature of NDF organisational culture and due to constraints imposed by the management on disclosing information some of the participants were unwilling to provide necessary answers. There is a possibility that respondents may have withheld some of the critical information as they could have assumed it may be used for ulterior motives rather than academics. To overcome the limitations, the researcher ensured that the participants were sensitised about the importance of undertaking the study.

The study was conducted during COVID-19 induced restrictions and several personnel were working on shifts or from home. This affected how sampling was done. Some participants were not keen to be recorded with the voice recorder. Therefore, the researcher listened attentively and wrote down all the responses. Given the fact that the study is qualitative by nature and the researcher is an employee of the NDF, the findings might be prone to bias. However, the researcher tried to be as objective as possible. Accessing certain information was also a challenge, however, to overcome this, published documentations were retrieved through the command structure of the NDF.

## **1.6 Delimitations of the Study**

Delimitations are the scope and boundaries that a researcher determines for the study (Bloomberg & Volpe, 2015). The researcher may control delimitations as he or she develops the study (Connelley, 2013). One of the delimitations in a qualitative study is that

a researcher might use a small sample size to have ample time to gather and analyse the data (Yin, 2018). The study was conducted at NDF headquarters in Windhoek and only focused on the strategic efficacy of NDF in internal security operations in Namibia.

## **1.7 Definition of Key Concepts**

### **1.7.1 Security**

Security is an encompassing phenomenon that is paramount to individuals, entities, communities and even nations (Aregbesola, 2018). Security has to do with self-preservation, which is the first law of existence. Security implies a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends or objectives without disruption, harm, or danger and without fear of disturbance or injury (Aregbesola, 2018).

### **1.7.2 Internal Security**

Internal security is defined as the process of maintaining domestic security of a given state (Maikomo & Ngomba, 2018).

### **1.7.3 Internal Security Operations (ISOPs)**

Internal security operations (ISOPs) in this study are defined as any designed activities to contain internal threats to preserve law and order in a state and are executed by internal security agents (Maikomo & Ngomba, 2018). According to Aregbesola, (2018), internal Security Operations (ISOPs) are those acts carried out by domestic security agents such as the Police, Customs Service, Immigration Service, and others, to contain domestic threats

to the security of the country. These threats often relate to dire cases of riots, demonstrations, strikes, communal clashes, terrorism, and the like, which normally fall outside the constitutional duty of the military.

#### **1.7.4 Civil-Military Relations (CMR)**

A country-specific dynamics constantly evolve in response to political shifts, external imperatives and technological innovation (Kathmandu, 2009). It covers all characteristics of relations between the armed forces and society. Civil-military relations also involve issues such as the broader attitude of the military towards civilian society; civilian society's perceptions of and attitudes toward the military; and the military's ethos and understanding as to what its role should be (Cottey et al., 1999).

### **1.8 Outline of the Study**

**In Chapter 1** (Introduction, this chapter introduces the topic, research problem and the background to the study is presented. The aim, objectives, research objectives, significance, limitations and delimitations are also discussed.

**In Chapter 2** (Literature Review), the empirical and theoretical literature on military intervention is outlined. In this chapter information from a variety of sources is reviewed and gaps are outlined. This chapter also underscores the methodological limitations of past studies. Various texts and articles will eventually lead to the construction of a theoretical framework, which will be presented at the end of the chapter.

**Chapter 3** (Research Methodology), This chapter presents the procedures that were used for the methods of research, the population to be sampled, instrumentation, the sampling procedures that were used and how data was collected and analysed.

**In Chapter 4** (Results, Interpretation of Findings and Discussions), the findings of the study were outlined based on the data collected and the results generated, which was linked to the literature review conducted in this study.

**In Chapter 5** (Conclusions and Recommendations), a presentation of key findings from both the literature review and the primary research are discussed. From this, a basis for the conclusions of the study is formed. The conclusions from the study will, thereafter, inform the recommendations that are presented to decision-makers and other researchers who may attempt to investigate other aspects that were uncovered in this study, in further detail.

## **1.9 Conclusion**

In summation, this chapter presented a detailed discussion of the introduction, background, and statement of the problem. Furthermore, the chapter provided the aim of the study, research objectives, significance of the study delimitations, and limitations of the study. Finally, the chapter gives the structure of the dissertation and a summary that highlights the key issues discussed under each of the subsections. The next chapter discusses the literature reviewed for the current study.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

While the preceding chapter introduced the study, gave the rationale of the study and underscored the objectives of the study, this chapter focuses on the literature review. A literature review is a procedure undertaken by the investigator in which previous studies regarding the topic are analysed to reveal gaps in the existing body of knowledge, and theoretical as well as methodological shortcomings that require further research (Bryman, 2018). Under this section, information comes from the viewpoints of various authors from different sources such as books, reports, the internet and journal articles. In addition, a range of matters that are pertinent to the study are explored in detail, and gaps are revealed. These include but are not limited to theoretical framework and review of empirical literature regarding military intervention in domestic affairs.

### **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

According to Succi (2022), numerous contemporary security issues involve domestic military deployment for internal security or humanitarian purposes. From a strategic and national security standpoint, the role of the military is to protect and support the interests of the state, territory and its citizens (Van Nieukerk & Moat, 2015). The research was grounded on the National Security paradigm. The concept of National security through the lens of the military is protection of a sovereign state inclusive of its citizens from any threat be it external or internal (Khan, 2022). Given the evolution or redefining of national security threats, which also encompasses non-military dimensions such as security from terrorism, minimization of crime, economic security, energy security environmental

security, food security and cyber security (Khan, 2022; Mabuku & Olutola, 2022; Joshua, Gberevbie & Onor, 2020). The above-stated security dimensions evolve around the human security paradigm, which may later escalate to a national security nuisance if unchecked.

The UNDP (1994), states that human security is about the security of people (based on seven elements/areas of Human Security) rather than states or government. The approach assumes that human security is needed in reaction to the difficulties and the connections of both old and new security threats that grow from several security threats such as international terrorism and transnational crimes.

Khan (2022) and Joshua, Gberevbie and Onor (2020) further postulate that, a national security paradigm for the domestic deployment of the military ponders on the establishment of a clear framework, policies, guidelines and joint training to effectively and efficiently address the threats. This also includes upholding the constitutional mandate of the state (Hubbard, 2019).

### **2.3 The General Concept of the Military**

According to Joshua, Gberevbie and Onor (2020) traditionally the military or the armed forces mostly consists of tri-services or divisions chiefly the army, air force and navy. These institutions predominantly exist for the national security of any state, whereby the primary mission of the military is to defend a nation from military attacks or threats (Palos, 2009). Moreover, the military is mostly employed to counter external security threats, but recent history has shown that the armed forces are also drawn into international security operations. This is mostly necessitated when the national police and other civil agencies



are overwhelmed, resulting in calling for assistance from the military (Mabuku, 2022; Joshua, Gberevebie & Onor, 2020).

#### **2.4 Legal Framework during domestic Military deployment**

Generally, the domestic deployment of the military is mostly guided by the highest legislation of a state which is the constitution. Moreover, it also depends on the laws and system of governance as well as the circumstances of the deployment. These circumstances are mostly national security threats and the support of civilian authorities (Succi, 2022). In the case of Namibia, the constitution makes provisions for the domestic deployment of the military under certain circumstances.

Article 29 of the Namibian constitution “establishes that, during a time of national disaster or during a state of national defence or public emergency threatening the life of the nation or the constitutional order, the president may deploy the NDF to restore national security (Republic of Namibia, 2014). This translates that, the President may take measures necessary for addressing the emergency, including the deployment of the military for domestic purposes. Furthermore, during any deployment of the military, they are largely subjected to constitutional principles, including civilian control and oversight, respect for human rights and absolute adherence to the rule of law (Succi, 2022).

#### **2.5 Domestic Deployment of the Military in a Democratic State**

In the 20 twentieth century, a process of democratization was witnessed globally, which brought a decline in military government or authoritarian states (Palos, 2009). In a democratic dispensation, the military is mostly deployed domestically to restore peace and

security. This is mostly done when the police or other paramilitary forces are overwhelmed. Under no circumstances is the military deployed domestically as a political tool to protect a certain regime or suppress the masses.

## **2.6 Deployment of the Military in an Autocratic State**

Traditionally under an autocratic state there exist high levels of democratic deficit. Moreover, the military is mostly used as a political tool to instil fear into the citizens (Dwyer, 2019). The dogma of the military is protecting the interest of the regime instead of loyalty towards the constitution and citizens (Succi, 2022; Dwyer, 2019). There have been numerous accounts in Africa whereby countries are democratic in principle, but their actions are authoritarian. For instance, in Zimbabwe under present Robert Mugabe, the military was used a political tool by the ruling party to suppress the opposition parties and the masses that were against the regime. With this said, it could be argued that, under an autocratic dispensation the military is mostly used as a political tool to protect a regime by disregarding human rights.

## **2.7 Civil-Military Relations in Namibia**

In Namibia, Civil-military relations are determined by the hierarchy of authority between the Executive, Parliament and the Armed Forces, and the principle of civil supremacy over the armed forces. Sound civil-military relations facilitate political control of the armed forces by a democratic government. These concepts are as old as the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia itself and the Defence Amendment Act, (Act 20 of 1990) of its National Assembly. In accordance with Article (1) of the Namibian Constitution (1990, p.1):

“The Republic of Namibia is hereby established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. All power shall vest in the people of Namibia who shall exercise their sovereignty through the democratic institutions of the State and the main organs of the State shall be the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.”

The Defence Amendment Act (Act 20 of 1990), established the Namibia Defence Force ‘organised in such arms, corps, formations and units as the Minister of Defence may determine or as may be prescribed by law.’ The Minister of Defence is the civilian authority over the Namibia Defence Force. Section 8 of the Defence Amendment Act (1990, p. 5) stipulates:

“The executive military command of the Namibia Defence Force shall, subject to the provision of this Act, be vested in the Chief of the Defence Force appointed under the Namibian Constitution.”

Article 32 (4)(c) of the Namibian Constitution stipulates that the President shall have the power to appoint the Chief of the Defence Force on the recommendation of the Security Commission. The Security Commission is chaired by the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission and includes the Attorney General and members of the Parliament. Further, under the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia (1990, p. 28) section 9 (2)(a) states:

“The procedure in connection with the appointment and promotion of officers and other ranks and the conditions of such appointment or promotion shall be as may be prescribed by the Public Service Commission.” “No person shall be appointed in

the Defence Force unless he or she meets the requirements as prescribed by the Public Service Commission in consultation with the Minister of Defence.”

The Chief of the Defence Force executes defence policy, directs the work of Defence Headquarters and manages the overall functioning and operations of the defence force. He/she is the principal advisor to the Minister on military, operational and administrative matters within his/her competence. The decision-making process of a Defence Ministry is often done through the hierarchy of the Defence Committees and Council. These committees are provided for in the White Paper on Defence Policy enacted by Parliament in 1993. At the apex of the Committee Structure is the Defence Staff Council chaired by the Minister of Defence and includes the Deputy Minister of Defence, the Permanent Secretary and the Chief of the Defence Force. The Defence Staff Council remains the highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence. Its composition guarantees healthy civil-military relations in the decision-making system of the Ministry. Other critical subordinated committees in shaping the defence preparedness of the military component of the Ministry of Defence are the Senior Management Committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary, and the Military Steering Committee chaired by the Chief of the Defence Force. Interaction between civilians and military staff in the defence ministry is business and civilians are employed permanently while the military officers are deemed to be on a duty tour, rotating between defence force units.

According to Namibia's White Paper on Defence Policy, the defence force should develop a professional fighting force, trained, equipped and deployed to meet threats and challenges the country can expect to face at any given time, including playing a positive and constructive role in peacetime. The Defence Ministry undertakes to operate effectively in

support of civil authority when required and participate in peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations in the region and beyond.

## **2.8 Military Intervention in Domestic Affairs**

The nature of 21st-century threats to internal security requires, in certain situations, the introduction of the armed forces. In Nigeria, the Nigerian military has engaged in peacekeeping operations in foreign countries on several occasions and has been commended for its noble conduct during those occasions, Sierra Leone and Liberia are good examples. It is wondered why this is not the case when internal security operation is concerned. The problem of high-handedness and insensitivity to the nature and characteristics of civilian-dominated areas is always pointed out as a flaw. Several critical issues are associated with the Nigerian military when engaged in internal security operations; most of which are negative owing to the blatant disregard for human dignity.

The domestic deployment of the military in internal operations has been characterised by the severe use of force. In Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau, this has been a common feature of military ISOPs. These internal operations have often been characterized by highhandedness, impunity and collective judgment. In the case of Odi and Zaki Biam in Nigeria, men of the military simply descended on non-combatant, villagers, killing and maiming them with impunity. Some of the casualties were innocent, law-abiding citizens of Nigeria, who were oblivious of the issue at stake. They merely became victims of the vindictive operation of the army who were hell-bent on retaliation.

In Nigeria, the Onitsha crisis had its roots in the struggle between the members of the movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and those of the National

Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) for control of urban motor parks in Onitsha. This struggle degenerated into a sort of anarchy around February 2006, when the Governor of Anambra State, Mr Peter Obi, called on President Goodluck Jonathan to direct the deployment of military troops to the State with the intent to restore peace, law, order and public security. Accordingly, the President directed the deployment of soldiers to work in collaboration with the Police to ameliorate the raging crisis. As the operations lasted, some members of the Joint Army and Police Team resorted to untoward acts, which gave the entire exercise a semblance of a praetorian invasion. In effect, there were massive extra-judicial killings, torture, extortion, rape, and the like.

Furthermore, there have been inhumane treatments involved in civil-military operations. This has to do with the various degrading treatment unleashed against the populace by soldiers in the course of ISOPs. Examples include rape, extortion, torture, extra-judicial killings, looting of property, false accusation deliberate humiliation and intimidation, and the like of these. For instance, at Odi and Zaki Biam, many young people were arrested and falsely accused of being masterminds of the killing of security personnel. At Onitsha, several youths were arrested and falsely accused of being members of MASSOB (Nwolise, 2017). In Iraq, the army has been accused of inhuman treatment in a bid to flush out terrorists.

The domestic deployment of the military in internal operations has led to population displacement. In the cases of Odi and Zaki Biam in Nigeria, the entire villages were raided, leading to mass dislocation of families and attendant population displacement and internal refugee situation. In the recent incident in Mali, the villagers were forced to evacuate their

traditional abodes and squat in unfriendly and unhealthy destinations in their immediate and remote neighbourhood. Nothing can be more dehumanising.

Previous studies show that military orientation dictates that a potential threat is an enemy and as such should be eradicated (Shiff, 2015); DeConing, 2015 & Franke, 2017). Having a mindset like this during internal operations is dangerous. Defence against external aggression should be differentiated from the defence employed against 'enemies' within (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017). Instead of lending support to the police or other civil authorities concerned the military end up taking leading roles. This can cause unhealthy rivalry which can eventually undermine security efforts (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

The notion of security and security threats has broadened, and so one might expect the military role in internal security has expanded as well. Issues that were once outside the realm of security have been brought inside (Franke, 2017). These may not constitute security threats in themselves but may have security implications. Natural disasters, environmental degradation, undocumented immigration, and even extreme poverty are often portrayed as events or processes that could if left unattended, materialize into security threats, even crises (Franke, 2017).

Second, criminal activities are increasingly coordinated, large in scope, and transnational or cross-border in nature. If criminal organizations regularly cross over territorial limits, then a security challenge may be neither purely domestic nor external; it could be both. That in turn could blur the line between defense and public security spheres. For example,

drugs, human trafficking, contraband, and arms smuggling, are activities that take place across borders and have repeatedly been priority items (De Coning, 2015).

Thirdly, militaries are normally socialized into the use of maximum force, not restraint. When faced with a formidable foe, militaries instinctively do two things. Defensively, they hunker down in heavily guarded, fortified bases or adversary positions with thick-plated armoured vehicles and other combat assets. When the military emerges from their fortresses, they resort to uninhibited explosive force against their adversary to subdue them enough to shield their units from counterattack.

It is an exercise in shifting back and forth between isolation and annihilation. This creates a stark separation between soldier and public which has the disadvantage of dulling the military's sensitivities to situations requiring calibrated, gradational and deferred violence (De Coning, 2015). In short, militaries have a difficult time striking the balance between force protection and target protection. Hence, one would think that internal security deployments would inevitably invite trouble because militaries resist being compelled to abide by principles of restraint, which are thought to interfere with combat readiness (Franke, 2017).

In Namibia, the NDF, in collaboration with the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) particularly the Special Reserve Force (SRF) were deployed in the Caprivi strip to quell two secessionist uprisings (November 1998 and August 1999) by a small insurgent force known as the Caprivi Liberation Movement (CLM). In October 1998, the NDF with the support of the SRF stumbled onto a small insurgent training camp of the CLM, which was alleged to be in the Mudumu National Park (The Namibian, 1999).



Following this discovery, the over-zealous security forces, in their attempts to capture secessionist rebels, caused some 2 500 Caprivi residents, many of them members of the marginalised Kxoe (San) community, to flee into Botswana (Lamb, 2019). Amongst the refugees were leaders of the CLM, namely Mishake Muyongo and Mafwe Chief Boniface Mamili. By June 1999 only several hundred refugees were repatriated, while Muyongo and Mamili were granted asylum in Denmark. The remaining refugees still reside in Botswana. In the early hours of 2 August 1999, the Namibian security forces were caught off-guard when armed insurgents from the CLM attacked the Wanella border post, local NDF bases, a police station, a shopping centre and offices of the Namibian Broadcasting

Corporation in the Caprivi town of Katima Mulilo. Street battles ensued, but by the afternoon the rebel forces had been repulsed by the Namibian security forces (Lamb, 2019). A State of Emergency was declared the next day and remained in place for the next three weeks. During this time the Namibian security forces undertook intensive “mopping up” operations to flush out and capture CLM insurgents. By early September some sense of normality had returned to Katima Mulilo, but the Namibian security forces remain deployed in large numbers in the region. In both incidents members of the NDF as well as the NAMPOL and the SFF have been implicated in intimidation, assault, torture and even murder of civilians (Lamb, 2019).

The NDF has also rendered the following services in support of civil authorities and communities since its inception: mine clearance; repatriation of Namibian nationals from Botswana; controlling of locusts in the Caprivi region; apprehension of trawlers illegally fishing in territorial waters; joint operations with the Namibian Police Force; and fire-fighting services. NDF personnel were also involved in peacekeeping operations, namely

in the UN mission to monitor the elections in Cambodia in 1993 (National Planning Commission, 2018). In addition, the NDF has participated in regional peacekeeping exercises such as Operation Blue Crane, which was held in South Africa (Lamb, 2019).

The Namibian military has also intervened in response to issues relating to climate change such as wildfire and flooding. According to Mapowe (2017), the NDF has been actively involved in fighting bushfires, locust or pest outbreaks, floods and providing assistance in emergency relief supplies of food, medicines, clothes, tents and evacuation of victims. In support of this fact, Shaw (2018) argues that armies worldwide have often been used to deal with crises such as floods and hurricanes which affect sections of the civilian population. NDF has responded to that role through the provision of manned transport and communications equipment at short notice because their training has equipped them to deal with similar situations in the military context.

Furthermore, Mapowe (2017) contends that in November 2011, when floods took place in the Northern parts of the country most areas were not accessible by road, and hence could only be accessible using NDF helicopters or boats. The inaccessibility of roads to affected areas by the floods had a very negative impact on the flood operations. Most school children were evacuated and accommodated in relocation centres while others were camped at their respective schools. Since many of the remote areas could not be reached by road, health officials (nurses and doctors) were transported by NDF helicopters or boats to offer services in the affected areas (Mapowe, 2017).

Mapowe (2017) further contends that it was a challenge to visit all affected areas, however, there were no major health-related problems encountered during the operations. The

logistics department during the flood disaster experienced a variety of problems. During the emergency operations, the logistics department was overwhelmed in dealing with several partners. The Namibia Defence Forces was instrumental in the transportation of 10 emergency supplies from national level to the affected regions and in accessing the inaccessible areas, and without NDF support many victims of this natural disaster could have lost their lives. NDF provided helicopters and trucks that assisted in evacuating people, delivering relief items and health services to people cut off by the floods (Mapowe, 2017).

## **2.9 The Challenges of Domestic Military Deployment**

Often the soldiers involved in internal security operations are not properly equipped for the task. Soldiers engaged in internal operations who are only equipped with guns will use it if their lives are threatened by a hostile mob an average mob in a country can only have stones and not guns. Using deadly equipment such as guns in this situation will not be suitable (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

The deployment of the military in civil operations informs the need for the military to adjust to the demands of internal security operations (Shiff, 2015). The military usually encounters problems adjusting when dealing with civil operations. Some areas where these problems stem from have been highlighted as follows:

### **2.9.1 Training**

Since the primary function of the military is to defend the country in times of war, military training is usually based on inflicting maximum damage and destruction on their opponents

and defeating them in the shortest possible time within the rules and the law of armed conflict. Meanwhile, internal security operations only require restraint and the use of minimum force which contrasts with what is usually required of soldiers in conventional warfare. The requirement for minimum force is because they are now maintaining law and order among their own people in their own country. The arbitrariness associated with the military while in internal security operations can be attributed to the kind of training undergone by the soldiers. There is therefore the need for the military to undergo proper training to deal with internal operations (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

### **2.9.2 Orientation**

This is the attitude or views of a person. Military orientation dictates that a potential threat is an enemy and as such should be eradicated. Having a mindset like this during internal operations is dangerous (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017). Defence against external aggression should be differentiated from the defence employed against ‘enemies’ within. Another issue is the perceived attitude of the military when called upon to perform internal security operations. Some soldiers think that they have a more noble role than this and some even think they have been called upon because of the incapability and inefficiency of the police in maintaining law and order (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

The resultant effect is that the military usually takes over operations from the police instead of aiding the civil authorities. Instead of lending support to the police or other civil authorities concerned the military end up taking leading roles. This can give rise to jealousy

and distrust between the police force involved in the operations and the soldiers deployed for the internal operations (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

This can cause unhealthy rivalry which can eventually undermine security efforts. This has caused the Army to advocate for a centralized system to coordinate the activities of Joint Task Force Operations in the country as such a system would prevent order and counter-order by various Heads of Security Agencies (Franke, 2017).

### **2.9.3 Equipment**

Often the soldiers involved in internal security operations are not properly equipped for the task. Soldiers engaged in internal operations who are only equipped with guns will use them if their lives are threatened by a hostile mob. An average mob can only have stones and not guns. Using deadly equipment such as guns in this situation will not be suitable.

National Security encompasses the country's capability to protect itself from poverty, hunger, ignorance, disease, disaster, or any form of territorial and ecological defenselessness (Okoli, 2010). When soldiers on ISOPs rape women and girls, they predispose them to psychological torture and possible medical conditions. When a soldier infected with HIV/AIDS rapes a healthy female, he has by that singular dastard act killed that girl or woman and at least one thousand (1, 000) other people, who may likely be exposed to the contagious effect of the same disease by sexual contact/promiscuity. Note that medical malaise such as HIV/AIDS has been one of the greatest threats to the national security of nations in Africa (Nwolise, 2017).

#### **2.9.4 Strategy and Tactics**

Military strategy and tactics are essential to the conduct of warfare. Strategy is the planning, coordination, and general direction of military operations to meet overall political and military objectives. Tactics implement strategy by short-term decisions on the movement of troops and employment of weapons on the field of battle. Armies all over the world have strategies and tactics employed in times of war.

Some of the most cited principles are the objective, the offensive, surprise, security, unity of command, economy of force, mass, and manoeuvre. There is also the envelopment tactic which is the unexpected appearance of enemy troops on a flank or from behind that can damage an army's morale, and if a force is encircled it can be deprived of supplies or attacked from any side (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

Although the Republic of Namibia enjoys a legal and institutional framework for healthy civil-military relations, challenges exist in exercising these principles. The fact that the military has insufficient resources to support civil communities in cases of emergency constitutes a challenge to civil-military relations. The public was heavily critical of the slow response of the Defence Force and Police when they were called upon to combat crime and banditry. Subsequently, the public lost confidence in security forces and could not be convinced that through stable civil-military relations alone territorial integrity and sovereignty can be protected.

On the other hand, the security forces expected the government to provide for their operational requirements. Without adequate provision, the Security Forces are unable to attend to the diversity of security operations in the country. This fosters unhealthy civil-

military relations. It remains the responsibility of the government to ensure that the Namibia Defence Force is adequately budgeted to enable it to accomplish its missions as mandated by the constitution. However, due to the inadequate macroeconomic base of the country, the state cannot always rise to the expectations of the defence force in providing much-needed logistical supplies, modern military equipment and highly specialised training to meet the threats and challenges it faces. An imminent challenge to civil-military relations in Namibia is the lack of modern defence resources to meet territorial defence needs (Negonga, 2017).

Consequently, members of the defence force at times develop the perception that the state should increase the defence budget to enhance military professionalism and thus boost healthy civil-military relations. Parliament controls the state, including the defence force as an apparatus of the state. In this regard, it expects the principle of transparency to apply to all the activities of the state including those concerning the NDF (Negonga, 2017).

The executive power of the commander-in-chief of the NDF to deploy the defence force by a threat assessment and national interest is sometimes criticised by the opposition in Parliament. Parliament should not expect transparency to apply always in deployment of the national defence force and due consideration should be given to the necessity for confidentiality based on operational requirements.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Security provided for by the Namibian Constitution is one of the most important mechanisms for promoting stable civil-military relations. However, it has not met as often as required due to other equally important national commitments. Finally, healthy civil-military relations are not expected to flourish

in the absence of a civil-military educational institution in Namibia. A civil-military education curriculum deserves integration into the military training programme of the NDF. Off-shore courses on civil-military relations should concentrate on training the trainers to educate the entire community of the defence force as compared to a limited number of senior officers so far graduated from these courses (Negonga, 2017).

### **2.10 Strategies to Improve the Domestic Military Deployment for Internal Security**

According to (Estherhuyse & Heinecken, 2020) the strategic success of military operations in both domestic and external deployment is largely dependent on civil-military relations be it in a democratic or authoritarian dispensation of a state. Esterhuyse and Heinecken (2020, p. 72) further assert from a viewpoint of the “Clausewitzian Trinity” which postulates that military power in a domestic sphere is recognised through cordial relations with the polity and society. Notably, civil-military relations are traditionally conceptualized as military professionalism by being apolitical and subordinate to civilian authority. There is a need for improved civil control of the military, across the various arms of government. As the representatives of the people, for instance, an improved parliamentary oversight by the National Assembly which is empowered to ensure the military complies with the regulations guiding its missions would improve compliance. This can also include making publicly available, the military rules of engagement for every internal security operation in the country (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

The benefit of this is that it will improve accountability, ensure compliance, and serve as the standard which to assess the performance and activities of personnel deployed for every ISOP in society. Without this, it becomes difficult to determine which actions of personnel are appropriate, when to use force on civilians, and the extent to which force can be used



against a protesting or riotous civilian group. Similarly, another important area of consideration relates to the role of an independent military ombudsman who can effectively intervene in the areas of military abuse. While at present, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria performs similar activities an ombudsman can perform, an independent military ombudsman dedicated to addressing issues of military abuses is more beneficial (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

Having noted various abuses associated with the military's role in ISOPs in Nigeria and having underscored the sundry implications of these abuses, one more thing needs to be addressed to round off the discourse. This is to underscore the strategic efficacy of such operations. The simplest way to come to terms with this task is to appraise the cost-effectiveness of such operations against the critical values of national security. For instance, the praetorian invasions and raids of Nigerian villages at Odi 1999), Zaki Biam (2001) and Onitsha (2006) constituted serious violations of human dignity and liberty that no nation that has concern for national security can afford to condone. When innocent people are killed, maimed, tortured, raped, brutalized, harassed, or displaced in the name of ISOPs, the outcome is a sort of paradox: woeful, absurd negativity whereby law and order are sought through lawlessness and at the dire expense of the people.

## **2.11 Conclusion**

In a nutshell, this chapter provides a literature review of the challenges faced by Army personnel during domestic military operations. It focuses on the theoretical framework, internal security and domestic military operations as well as the challenges encountered by the military during domestic operations and possible strategies to improve the participation of NDF in domestic operations.

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The previous chapter reviewed the literature of the study. This chapter covers the research methodology that was used to empirically investigate the domestic deployment of the NDF from 1990-2019. Thus, this chapter focuses on the procedures and methods that were undertaken in carrying out this study and addresses the following: research approach, research design, study population, study sample, sampling techniques, research instruments, data collection procedure, data analysis, trustworthiness and ethics.

The chapter begins by explaining each of the fields followed by an elaborate detailing of their application in the research. The purpose of defining a target population was to ensure the study was narrowed down to a specific setting comprising participants with homogenous characteristics. It is from this population target that a specific sample was then chosen according to the sampling technique as presented. The selection of one data collection instrument aided the researcher in gathering data without any potential for confusion. The chapter also clarified the research design, research population, sampling and data analysis procedures as well as ethical consideration for the study.

### **3.2 Research Approach**

There are two commonly used approaches of research which include qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitative research relies on the collection of non-numerical data and elicits verbal or visual data, such as written records (Ndedi, 2013, p.103). The researcher decided to use the qualitative study approach to primarily focus on the depth or

richness of the data. To achieve the objectives of the research study, the qualitative approach was used to collect primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected from survey research through an interview with participants who answered the questionnaires. Secondary data was collected from the published work of other researchers who researched on the same or related topic of study using a similar research approach. It does not make use of statistical quantification and analysis of the results Creswell (2008, p. 89). The research topic was rather exploratory case study design where the researcher examined the domestic military deployment of the NDF from 1990-2019. An exploratory research study was a valuable means of finding out what is happening; seeking new insights; asking questions and assessing phenomena in a new light.

### **3.3 Research Design**

The study used a qualitative approach, which is an exploratory case study design, whereby the unstructured questions were used through in-depth interviews with the selected officers of the CIMIC & OOTW Division and the NDF senior officers in management at Defence headquarters. All unstructured interview questions were meant to capture expert opinions and inside information to evaluate the NDF domestic deployment in Namibia from 1990-2019. An exploratory case study design was adopted because it is suitable when one collects information from the participants regarding their consciousness, feelings and experiences on the military deployment in Namibia from 1990-2019 concerning Namibian Defence Force (NDF).

Another reason why the researcher opted for an exploratory case study design is that an exploratory case study design is a suitable design that captures the experiences of participants regarding observable facts. Moreover, this design is flexible and open since it

is used when very little or nothing is known about a particular phenomenon in this case the domestic military deployment in Namibia from 1990-2019 concerning Namibian Defence Force (NDF).

### **3.4 Population**

The Defence Headquarters has a population of over 1000 staff members including both civilian and military personnel. However, due to the unavailability timeframe, the research population of this study only targeted 100 officials and senior officers at the defence headquarters. This research population is not just limited to people but also objects that the researcher would like to further study, hence, the population for this study included 100 male and female officers of the CIMIC & OOTW Division and the NDF management at Defence headquarters.

### **3.5 Sampling**

The total population sampled was 100 male and female officers working at the Defence headquarters in Windhoek. The qualitative research design used the purposive sampling method, and the researcher used a sample size of 30 officers of the CIMIC & OOTW Division and the NDF Senior Officers in management at Defence headquarters. Purposive sampling was relevant for this study because it enables the researcher to select a sample based on the purpose of the study and of a population about the effectiveness of NDF intervention in Namibia. In selecting participants, a purposive sampling technique was used. The purposive sampling technique denotes a kind of sampling which is designed for the selection of specific cases within a population (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

This sampling method is used to help the researcher target only prospective participants who have the information needed by the researcher. This sampling technique was useful as it enabled the researcher to reach the targeted sample quickly. Purposive sampling was useful and applicable to this research because there was a specific group being targeted by this study, in this case, the officers of the CIMIC & OOTW Division and the NDF in management at Defence headquarters.

Moreover, purposive sampling is not time-consuming, the accuracy of data is high, it is intensive it provides exhaustive data, and it is suitable when the author has limited resources. Therefore, a sample comprises of elements of the population considered for actual inclusion in the study, or it can be viewed as a subset of measurements drawn from a population in which the researcher is interested and allows the researcher to make accurate estimates of the thoughts and behaviour of the larger population.

### **3.6 Research Instruments**

The quality of data collected during the study is dependent on the suitability of the instruments used. The common instruments used in social science studies are interview guides, focus group guides and voice recorders. Interviews were key in this qualitative research because they enabled the researcher to follow interesting points and to ask for clarifications that the researcher did not understand.

This research used an interview guide to attain the information from the participants and gather valid and reliable data relevant to the question/study, as well as to give room for both the author and the respondent to ask questions where it is not clear and both feel free and comfortable with each other. The other benefit of using interviews was that any

misunderstandings and mistakes were easily rectified during the interviews. Moreover, interviews enabled the researcher to build relations/rapport between the interviewees. Through interviews, the researcher managed to collect accurate and sufficient information and the interviewer could ask follow-up questions.

### **3.7 Data collection procedure**

A formal request was made to the Ministry of Defence Force to carry out a study at Namibian Defence Headquarters, Office of CIMIC & Office Other Than War (OOTW) Division after presenting an ethics letter from the university. Once permission was granted the researcher went into the field to collect data. Participants were requested in person to take part in the research. After obtaining authorization for the study, the researcher first conducted a pilot study or a pre-test of the interview guide and the feasibility of the study. Before data collection, potential participants were contacted through email and workgroup forums. The purpose and objectives of the study were explained.

All ethical issues were fully explained to the participants and were enforced during the research. Regarding the actual study, participants were then selected using a purposive sampling technique. The interviews were conducted with the participants telephonically and the process took about a week. This was because the personnel were working in shifts during the Covid-19 restrictions. While the response period is estimated to be between 40 and 50 minutes, the researcher agreed on convenient times to do the telephonic interviews with the participants. Participants were asked for permission to record them since the researcher could not write everything that the participants said during the interviews.

During data collection, the researcher asked the participants to sign consent letters before interviews and discussions. This was done as a way of approving that they were taking part in the study voluntarily and had understood what the study questions were all about. The researcher administered interviews by asking questions, writing down the responses on the field transcripts and ensuring that the process was followed properly. The targeted respondents were asked to answer questions, without necessarily divulging their identities if they wished to do so. Upon completion of data collection, responses were evaluated. For unforeseen circumstances, the researcher made copies and stored them in a file cabinet.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

Data analysis has to do with what happens after data has been collected (Brink et al, 2018). This study used qualitative techniques of data analysis to infer patterns, ideas, and explanations to simplify the data. The data was analyzed through content analysis because it allows for the data to be broken down into themes and then finally the analysis is done by the down themes. Moreover, the Content analysis allowed the data to be divided into topics and, finally, the analysis was made according to the disaggregated topics. The results of the research were analysed so that significant interpretations could be made. This allowed the researcher to reach an informed conclusion on which this study and other subsequent studies could be based.

In this study, the available materials were thus studied and from these available sources, conclusions and recommendations were drawn. These research objectives were used as guiding principles on which the analysis was carried out. In this case, the issues that emanated from the findings were classified according to each objective and then analyzed

accordingly. The data related to the topics were organized in smaller parts where the similarities and differences were revealed and the relations with the selected theories and literature were revealed.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

The guideline on the prospectus of postgraduate students at the University of Namibia on ethical observation was strictly adhered to throughout this study. Firstly, the researcher acquired an approval letter from the University of Namibia (UNAM). After the approval letter was obtained, the researcher presented the letter to NDF for permission to conduct the research.

Furthermore, a letter of informed consent was issued to all respondents to inform them of the study as well as the research procedure including telling them about the purpose of the interview that was conducted, how research findings will be used as well as informing them about those who will have the access to the research results and how this enabled the participants to make an informed decision in respect of whether they would take part in the study or not. The researcher protected the information against disclosure by third parties, any information that the participants gave in this research was protected and when revealed in the findings, the true identities of the participants (Names) were not revealed since the experiences that one may go through after dropping out from school may evoke shame to other people. Moreover, the nature of the performance of the participants during the research was kept confidential. Participants took part freely without any form of persuasion or force, they had a choice to take part or not take part in the research, if participants wished to withdraw from the research if they felt unease, and they were allowed to do so.



Finally, all participants at the end of the research were debriefed by the researcher. In this case, the researcher recapped everything that would have been done with participants. A reflection of the research was given to the participants so that they could gain insights from what the researcher might have gathered. Phone numbers were exchanged with the participants so that in any event they want to contact the researcher regarding the results of the study they would be able to do so.

### **3.9 Chapter Summary**

This section presented the research methodology to be applied during the research processes. Reading the section allows the reader to understand whether the research would be a qualitative or quantitative study. Besides the qualitative research method was used to capture in-depth and detailed views on the status of effectiveness of NDF intervention within their settings.

The research design and the sampling procedures were explained in detail. The researcher further explained the research instruments, and data collection and provided the logic for the approaches adopted. The population and sample respondents were also clarified thereby making it clear who and where the study was to take place. The chapter would up by proffering a set of ethical practices that will be upheld during the research. The next chapter focuses on findings and analysis of data.

## **CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The previous chapter focused on a research methodology. This chapter focuses on the presentation of research findings and discussion of the collected data. This chapter attempts to articulate and analyse the data collected from the study on military deployment in Namibia from 1990-2019. The findings were derived from in-depth interviews conducted with the target population. This chapter gives a clear picture of the findings as the data collected is discussed and analysed since the research was qualitative.

In this chapter, findings were discussed considering the existing literature and the theoretical framework employed in this study. Data gathered is presented under themes that were developed based on the objectives of the study. In the presentation of the findings, verbal statements from the respondents were used to maintain the originality of the information collected. This chapter is structured in two (2) parts. The first part presents the demographic data, and the second part presents study findings according to the objectives of the study. The data was analysed using content analysis. The objectives of the research were as follows:

- (iv) To investigate the nature of the domestic military deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia.
- (v) To assess the challenges of the domestic military deployment in internal security operations in Namibia.
- (vi) To suggest recommendations that can enhance the strategic efficacy of NDF in their domestic deployment in security operations in Namibia.

## **4.2 Demographics**

Research results indicate that from the twenty participants that were interviewed by the researcher. Findings indicate that twenty (20) were male and ten (10) were female. Twenty-two were married and eight (8) were not married. The participants' ranks were from the rank of Sergeant to Brigadier General. Out of the thirty (30) participants, two (02) were aged between 20 years and 30 years, eight (08) were aged between 31 years and 40 years fifteen (15) were aged between 41 and 50 years and five (5) were aged 51 years and above.

Research findings show that with regards to the participant's level of education, two (02) had a grade 12 certificate, ten (10) had diplomas, twelve (12) had degrees and six (06) participants had masters' degrees. Eight (08) participants had work experience of between 5 to 15 years, ten (10) participants, had work experience in NDF of between 16-25 years and twelve (12) had work experience of 26 years and above. Research participants were drawn from various departments of the NDF.

## **4.3 Presentation of the findings**

The following themes and subthemes emerged from conducting interviews with the participants. From the table below, three (3) central themes emerged from the study.

**Table 4.1 of themes and subthemes**

	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Sub-themes</b>
<b>Theme 1</b>	The nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dealing with National Security Threats.</li> <li>• Joint Crime Prevention Operations.</li> <li>• Response to National Disasters.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 2</b>	The challenges of domestic deployment of the military in internal security operations in Namibia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Training.</li> <li>• Lack of Proper Orientation.</li> <li>• Lack of Equipment.</li> <li>• Lack of Proper Strategies and Tactics.</li> <li>• Limited Budgets.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 3</b>	Measures to enhance the strategic efficacy of NDF in their deployment in internal security operations in Namibia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency budgets.</li> <li>• Provision of Training and Civil Operations Orientation.</li> <li>• Provision of Equipment.</li> </ul>

## **Theme 1: The nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia**

The theme describes how the participants understood the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia. Under this theme, two subthemes will be covered; National Security Threats; Joint Crime Prevention Operations and National Disasters.

### **Sub Theme 1: Dealing with National Security Threats**

The findings of the study reveal that participants understood the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia considering the demands of the national security threats. Their experiences in terms of the nature of the deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia are best understood in dealing with threats to national security. In this case, participants revealed that since 1990, the NDF has been actively involved in dealing with threats to national security.

Another finding that emerged from the study about the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in security operations in Namibia is that since 1990, the NDF has been committed to the efforts of providing security to Namibian citizens. One example given by the participants is the security incident in the Zambezi region. The Namibian Defence Force was deployed in response to the August 1999, armed men belonging to the Caprivi Liberation Movement (CLM) launched an attack on government installations in Katima Mulilo, to bring about the secession of the then Caprivi region (now Zambezi region) from Namibia.

The participants demonstrated a generally good understanding of the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in security operations in Namibia since 1990. Mostly they

described this nature of deployment in terms of defending the country or country's Regions from instability and security threats. Quotations from three of the participants below showed this understanding.

*In August 1999 there was separatist distress in the Zambezi region and armed men belonging to the Caprivi Liberation Movement (CLM) launched an attack on government installations in Katima Mulilo, NDF was deployed to put down the insurrection and to provide peace in the region (P1).*

*The NDF responded swiftly and contained the insurgency which threatened national security in Katima Mulilo after a group of separatists had attacked the government positions and government buildings (P2, P23, P27)*

*NDF has been actively involved in the provision of national peace and security since 1990. A notable incident took place in 1999 when the government buildings were attacked by secessionists who wanted to take over the region and form their own country. NDF intervened in the matter and security was restored (P5, P26, P29).*

*In August 1999 session movement in the Zambezi threatened security in Namibia (P22, P25)*

The participants went on to indicate that the deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in response to national security threats was inspired by the Constitution of Namibia which mandates the NDF to protect the country from both domestic and foreign threats. Some of the participants said;

*.....the national security threat of 1999 in the Zambezi Region was a threat to national security which required the direct response of the NDF to restore peace and security in the region (P11)*

*Since 1990, after obtaining independence, the NDF has responded to all national security threats by intervening and restoring order. This is in line with the mandate of the force to ensure national security (P20)*

*The NDF is actively deployed in internal security operations particularly issues related to domestic peace and stability (P13)*

Research findings also show that since independence, the NDF has actively committed to confronting challenges to national security challenges in the Zambezi Region. The efforts of the NDF in responding to the killing of Namibian citizens in the late 1990s overfishing rights in the Zambezi region is one such example. Below is an excerpt from one participant.

*Regarding national threats to security, we have deployed in the deep-lying parts of the Zambezi region to deal with incidents of conflict between the Namibian citizens and the authorities of Botswana. In the late 1990s, a fracas arose between the Namibian citizens and the authorities of Botswana over border and fishing disputes. We deployed our members to protect the people as there are no marked borders (P 11).*

In summary, the participants' quotations showed a generally good understanding of the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia since 1990. Participants in their responses described this nature of deployment in terms of defending the country or the country's Regions from instability and security threats. The

findings above are congruent with past research findings and literature. Mapowe (2017) argues that the NDF responded to separatist agitations in the Zambezi region in the 1990s. In August 1999, armed men belonging to the Caprivi Liberation Movement (CLM) launched an attack on government installations in Katima Mulilo, to bring about the secession of the then Caprivi region (now Zambezi region) from Namibia.

A State of Emergency was declared the next day and remained in place for the next three weeks. During this time the Namibian security forces undertook intensive “mopping up” operations to flush out and capture CLM insurgents. By early September some sense of normality had returned to Katima Mulilo, but the Namibian security forces remain deployed in large numbers in the region. In both incidents members of the NDF as well as the NAMPOL and the SFF have been implicated in intimidation, assault, torture and even murder of civilians (Lamb, 2019).

Lamb (2019) argues that though the insurrection was rapidly and over-zealously put down by the government, rumours abounded that the CLF had been trained and supported by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and it was alleged that some of those captured were indeed members of UNITA. The CLF was officially reported to have aimed attacks at the police headquarters, the Mpacha Defence Force base, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation building and the Wenela immigration post. The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) responded swiftly and contained the insurgency, leading to the arrest of more than 140 people while at least 14 individuals were killed.

From the Human Security paradigm, a theory that guides this study of human security is needed in reaction to the difficulties and the connections of both old and new security



threats that grow from several security threats such as international terrorism (UNDP, 1994).

### **Sub-theme 2: Joint Crime Prevention Operations**

A key issue that emerged from the findings is that the NDF since 1990 has been actively involved in joint crime prevention operations. NDF has been conducting joint operations with the Namibian Police Force; and fire-fighting services since 1990. The results of the study indicate that since independence the NDF has rendered support services to the civil authorities such as the police in preventing crime in Namibia. results of the study show that when called upon to do so the NDF was deployed together with law enforcement from the period 1990-2019. The NDF was deployed at the border stations to help the Namibian Police Force to prevent illegal activities. Findings also show that NDF was actively involved in the prevention of transnational crimes from 2003 in which it deployed its task force to help in fighting environmental crimes such as illegal hunting and poaching of protected species or wildlife in Namibia. Below are responses from the participants:

*NDF since 1990 has been working closely with the police in joint operations to prevent crime and criminality (P19, P23, P25, P30).*

*NDF was involved from 2003 -2015 in fighting against poaching of wildlife as well as illegal hunting. It provided the required manpower on the ground to deal with threats to wildlife (P14).*

*I can say that we have been actively employed in crime prevention efforts in liaison with the police when called upon to do so (P8, P21).*

*The NDF has been operating effectively in support of civil authority when required and participating in crime prevention efforts.*

The above findings reflect the domestic deployment of NDF in crime prevention efforts since independence. Findings also show that the NDF was also involved in clearing mines and providing safety in areas which had landmines.

*After independence, the NDF was involved in clearing landmines and removing explosives that were left by the SADF before independence in some of the parts of the country (P17)*

Findings also show that the NDF was actively involved from 1990-2015 in the repatriation of Namibian nationals from Botswana and the control of locusts in the Caprivi region. The NDF was also actively involved in the apprehension of trawlers illegally fishing in territorial waters as part of the joint crime prevention efforts.

The above corroborates literature findings that the NDF has been operating effectively in support of civil authorities such as police when required and participating in crime prevention operations in Namibia (Lamb, 2019). From the Human Security paradigm, a theory that guides this study of human security is needed in reaction to all threats against people.

### **Subtheme 3: Response to National Disasters**

One of the key aims of the study was to establish the nature of NDF deployment in internal security operations. In this regard, one of the key issues that arose was the NDF's response to national disasters. Findings show that the NDF has in the past deployed its members to help the Namibian communities in situations that require humanitarian assistance. Results

show that when there was a flood in northern Namibia, the NDF intervened by sending assistance to evacuate the people and to rescue some who were trapped as well as their animals. Findings show that in November 2011, the NDF actively reacted to the environmental security threat of floods by assisting the affected communities in the Northern parts of Namibia. Apart from floods, the results indicate that the NDF has also been partnering with fire service providers in dealing with wildfires. The quotes from the participants demonstrate the NDF efforts in this regard:

*We have provided helicopters to evacuate people in times of severe floods in the northern parts of Namibia (P7)*

*We have provided helicopters to remove vulnerable to safety in the times of floods in the northern parts of Namibia (P4)*

*During floods and other national disasters or catastrophes, we intervened by providing emergency relief supplies of food, medicines, clothes, tents and evacuation of victims (P16).*

*Though the NDF provided adequate assistance, we sadly lost a soldier due to drowning. This is a result of a lack of swimming skills training or proper safety equipment (P30, P25, P23).*

Findings show consistency and convergence with the literature. national Security encompasses the country's capability to protect itself from poverty, hunger, ignorance, disease, disaster, or any form of territorial and ecological defencelessness (Okoli, 2010). What is also evident in the literature is that the NDF has also deployed in response to issues

relating to climate change such as wildfire and flooding. In this regard, WHO partnered with Namibia to strengthen its emergency preparedness and response system (WHO, 2019).

According to Mapowe (2017), the NDF has been actively involved in fighting bushfires, locust or pest outbreaks, floods and providing assistance in emergency relief supplies of food, medicines, clothes, tents and evacuation of victims. In support of this fact, Shaw (2020), argues that the army worldwide has often been used to deal with crises such as floods and hurricanes which affect sections of the civilian population. NDF has responded to that role through the provision of manned transport and communications equipment at short notice because their training has equipped them to deal with similar situations in the military context.

Furthermore, Mapowe (2017), contends that in November 2011, when floods took place in the Northern parts of the country most areas were not accessible by road, and hence could only be accessible using NDF helicopters or boats. The inaccessibility of roads affected areas by the floods had a very negative impact on the flood operations (Mapowe, 2017). Most school children were evacuated and accommodated in relocation centres while others were camped at their respective schools. Since many of the remote areas could not be reached by road, health officials (nurses and doctors) were transported by NDF helicopters or boats to offer services in the affected areas (Lamb, 2019).

It was a challenge to visit all the affected areas, however, there were no major health-related problems encountered during the operations (Mapowe, 2017). The logistics department during the flood disaster experienced a variety of problems. During the emergency operations, the logistics department was overwhelmed in dealing with several partners (Mapowe, 2017). The Namibia Defence Forces was instrumental in the transportation of

10 emergency supplies from national level to the affected regions and in accessing the inaccessible areas, and without NDF support many victims of this natural disaster could have lost their lives. NDF provided helicopters and trucks that assisted in evacuating people, delivering relief items and health services to the people who were cut off by the floods (Mapowe, 2017).

## **Theme 2: The challenges of domestic military deployment in security operations in Namibia**

One of the key aims of this study was to establish the challenges of the domestic military deployment in internal security operations in Namibia. The results of the study show that from 1990 up to 2015, it is noteworthy that several challenges in the domestic military deployment in internal security operations in Namibia have been noted. In this section, data related to the challenges of domestic military deployment in internal security operations in Namibia is presented.

### **Sub-theme 1: Lack of Training**

Findings show that training is one of the challenges that NDF members have cited as prohibitive in their quest to discharge their constitutional duties regarding military operations in providing internal security in Namibia. Findings show that although the members are trained to deal with issues of warfare and threats to national security, the nature of emerging threats to national security are evolving and therefore there is a gap in training in dealing with such threats to internal security.

*NDF is not prepared to deal with some of the security threats because our training is focused on the defence of our territory and NDF is not trained on how to deal*

*with some threats that involve some of the citizens threatening the peace and security. So, in such situations, the same approach is applied to our own citizens (P8)*

*Most of our soldiers are not trained to deal with enemies within but they are trained to deal with enemies from outside, so they are not equipped for the tasks of internal security operations (P3)*

*Our soldiers have or may encounter problems when adjusting to deal with civil operations with unarmed civilians because they are not trained to handle that (P5)*

The findings are corresponding with what the literature says. Internal security operations are a global phenomenon (Idowu, 2018). Idowu (2018), further argues that despite the effort of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, international crisis remains frightening and unpredictable. Experience from developed countries, the Middle East and emerging democracies shows that the stiff competition over issues of legitimacy, autonomy and sovereignty, can threaten the internal security of a nation. Previous studies show that the challenges of military response to the invisible threats to national security are diverse (Idowu, 2018).

Since the primary function of the military is to defend the country in times of war, military training is usually based on inflicting maximum damage and destruction on their opponents and defeating them in the shortest possible time within the rules and the law of armed conflict (Idowu, 2018). Meanwhile, the new threats only require restraint and the use of minimum force, which contrasts with what is usually required of soldiers in conventional warfare. The requirement for minimum force is because they are now responding to an

enemy that they cannot see physically and they need to protect the people they deal with (Idowu, 2018).

The arbitrariness associated with the military while in internal security operations can be attributed to the kind of training undergone by the soldiers (Markotter, 2020). Therefore, there is a need for the military to undergo proper training to deal with invisible threats to national security (Busan, 2018). Ibrahim (2020) argues this fact was also acknowledged by the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Onyeabo Ihejirika in Nigeria, who said that the Nigerian Army must refocus its logistics training to cater for the internal security operations in aid of civil authority.

### **Sub Theme 2: Lack of Proper Orientation**

One of the key findings that emerged from the study is that there is a lack of proper orientation to the tasks when domestic deployment of NDF members happens since the NDF is called to be deployed, it happens in emergencies hence there is no ample time to orient the members. Findings show that members of the NDF have demonstrated a lack of orientation to some of the tasks from 1990 to 2015. The responses are verbalised below.

*Our military doctrine dictates that a potential threat is an enemy and as such should be eradicated. Therefore, when our members are deployed within our borders, they see the people as an enemy as such that is our major challenge when executing our duties (P12).*

*In emergencies when our members are deployed, we find it very difficult to orient our members from the perspective of defence operations against external*

*aggression to defence that we can employ when we are dealing with disasters or even domestic insurrection (P10).*

*Another challenge is that our military orientations fail to fit in the crime prevention and security operations because of the advanced training that our members have (P6).*

*Our orientation dictates that we are the last line of defence in Namibia therefore when called upon to perform joint operations with civilian authorities, our members end up taking the leading role rather than a supporting role because they have the feeling of being nobler than the police or other authorities (P15).*

*The aspect of who resumes the overall command of an operation when the military is called upon during domestic military operations. By extension, the NDF is the more senior force, which means that the NDF resume overall command when they are called upon. However, this is not the case, particularly during crime reduction operations, as the NDF is not trained in crime prevention strategies, therefore forcing the NDF to be subordinate to the junior force. (P25, P26, P27).*

The findings are consistent and congruent with the literature. Military orientation is a challenge that dictates that a potential threat is an enemy and as such should be eradicated (Robert, 2017). The domestic deployment of the military in response to the invisible threats towards national security, informs the need for the military to adjust to the demands of internal security operations (Walt, 2020). The military usually encounters problems adjusting when dealing with or responding to invisible threats to national security. Defence against external aggression should be differentiated from the defence employed against



invisible threats (Fischer, 2016). Another issue is the perceived attitude of the military when called upon to respond to enemies (Fischer, 2016). Some soldiers think that they have a nobler role than this and some even think they have been called upon because of the incapability and inefficiency of the police in maintaining law and order.

The resultant effect is that the military usually takes over the operations from the police instead of aiding the civil authorities as provided for by the Constitution (Shafi et al, 2020). Instead of lending support to the police or other civil authorities concerned, the military ends up taking leading roles. This can give rise to jealousy and distrust between the police force involved in the operations and the soldiers deployed for the internal operations. This can cause unhealthy rivalry, which can eventually undermine security efforts (Shafi et al, 2020). This has caused the various militaries to advocate for a centralized system to coordinate the activities of Joint Task Force Operations in the countries as such a system would prevent order and counter-order by various Heads of Security Agencies (Shafi et al., 2020).

### **Sub-theme 3 Lack of Equipment**

Findings show that Often the soldiers involved in internal security operations are not properly equipped for the task. Soldiers engaged in internal operations who are only equipped with guns will use them if their lives are threatened by a hostile mob. However, findings reveal that when faced with volatile situations, members of the NDF use guns. Findings also show that in 1998 the NDF members were accused of killing 14 unarmed civilians. Findings show that in the volatile situation of August 1998, the NDF responded swiftly and contained the insurgency, leading to the arrest of more than 140 people while at least 14 individuals were killed. Below are the responses from the participants:

*An average mob can only have stones and not guns. Using deadly equipment such as guns in this situation will not be suitable. But because the only equipment that we have are guns, the members end up using them (P19)*

*In situations of confrontational violence as in the case of August 1998, the army had no equipment such as water cannons and tanks to disperse the crowds (P4)*

Findings corroborate literature which says that often the soldiers involved in internal security operations are not properly equipped for the task (De Coning, 2015). Soldiers engaged in internal operations who are only equipped with guns will use it if their lives are threatened by a hostile mob an average mob in a country can only have stones and not guns. Using deadly equipment such as guns in this situation will not be suitable (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

#### **Sub Theme 4: Lack of Proper Strategies and Tactics**

Findings show that another challenge is the lack of proper strategies and tactics. Findings show that some of the most used principles objectiveness, offensiveness, surprise, security, unity of command, economy of force, mass, and manoeuvre are used against non-volatile situations. The findings reveal that the NDF embers members were exposed to tactics such as the envelopment tactic which is the unexpected appearance of enemy troops on a flank or from behind that can damage an army's morale, and if a force is encircled it can be deprived of supplies or attacked from any side. However, when dealing with invisible threats to national security such tactics are difficult to employ and that poses challenges regarding how the military is supposed to respond. The quote below demonstrates this idea:

*Our tactics are real warfare tactics hence difficult to employ when faced with civilians (P13).*

Lee (2020) asserted that military strategy and tactics are essential to the conduct of warfare. Strategy is the planning, coordination, and general direction of military operations to meet the overall political and military objectives. Tactics implement strategy by short-term decisions on the movement of troops and employment of weapons on the field of battle. Armies all over the world have strategies and tactics employed in times of war.

Zhang (2020) argues that internal security operations do not always require all these tactics, which soldiers ordinarily employ. Dealing with internal security threats and situations requires a completely different approach from an attack on an enemy position in conventional warfare. There is the need to adjust to the smaller scale of operations and the tactical mobility required.

#### **Sub Theme: 5 Limited Budgets**

Data analysis shows that many participants disputed the preparedness of the NDF in dealing with invisible threats on account of not having available funds as well as equipment needed to respond effectively to internal security threats such as floods and drought.

### **Theme 3 Measures to enhance the strategic efficacy of NDF in their domestic deployment in security operations in Namibia**

In this section, measures to enhance the strategic efficacy of NDF in their domestic deployment in internal security operations in Namibia are presented. Three (3) sub-themes emerged in this regard, and these are Emergence Budgets, Provision of Training and Civil

Operations Orientation and Provision of Equipment. These sub-themes are discussed below in detail:

### **Sub Theme 1: Emergency budgets**

Research data analysis revealed that participants suggested that one of the measures that could be adopted in responding to national security is to always plan for emergency budgets and emergency relief. Participants also suggested having reserve money and reserve supplies that can be used in a state of emergency. Below are the responses of the participants

*Budget allocation on emergencies should be made available all the time (P7)*

*.....there is a need for the military to budget for non-traditional military equipment (P14)*

*A fund should be made available to cater for the training as well as the acquisition of equipment and materials needed (P18)*

### **Subtheme 2: Provision of Training and Civil Operations Orientation**

Research results also suggest that one of the measures that can be adopted in responding to national security is the provision of training to members of the NDF on how to deal with such threats. Data analysis also suggested that during the training, training manuals should also be inclusive of how the NDF should respond to civilian crises. Below is a response from Participants 1 and 3:

*A fund should be made available to cater for the training and as well as acquisition of equipment and materials needed to fight pandemics, disasters and internal security threats.*

Data analysis also shows that NDF personnel should improve their readiness to respond to invisible threats towards human security by ensuring that they are adequately trained to deal with emergencies and on how to enforce regulations related to state emergencies. Findings reiterate the need for retraining and training drills aimed at combatting internal security threats, rescues as well as isolation and evacuation.

### **Sub Theme 3: Oversight**

Findings show the need for an improved civil control of the military, across the various arms of government. As the representatives of the people, for instance, an improved parliamentary oversight by the National Assembly which is empowered to ensure the military complies with the regulations guiding its missions would improve compliance. This can also include making publicly available, the military rules of engagement for every internal security operation in the country. This view is verbalised below:

*The military rules of engagement for every internal security operation in the country (P19)*

The benefit of this is that it will improve accountability, ensure compliance, and also serve as the standard to assess the performance and activities of personnel deployed for every ISOP in society. Without this, it becomes difficult to determine which actions of personnel are appropriate, when to use force on civilians, and the extent to which force can be used against a protesting or riotous civilian group.

Similarly, another important area of consideration relates to the role of an independent military ombudsman who can effectively intervene in the areas of military abuse. While at

present, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria performs similar activities an ombudsman can perform, an independent military ombudsman dedicated to addressing issues of military abuses is more beneficial (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

#### **4.4 Chapter Summary**

In summary, the results of the research were presented. The chapter has analysed the research results obtained. The research data was derived from the interviews that were done. This chapter gives a clear picture of the findings as the data collected is presented and analysed. Since the research is qualitative, a thematic approach was used in data analysis. Data gathered was presented under themes that were developed based on the research objectives. The next chapter focuses on the discussion of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the research based on the results obtained.

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The preceding chapter focused on the presentation of results and discussion. This chapter discusses the research findings and gives conclusions as well as policy recommendations and recommendations for future studies. The research analysed the military domestic deployment in Namibia from 1990-2019.

### **5.2 Summary of Findings**

#### **5.2.1 The nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia**

Primary data indicates that participants understood the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in security operations in Namibia considering the demands of national security threats. Their experiences in terms of the nature of the involvement of the NDF in internal security operations in Namibia are best understood in dealing with threats to national security. In this case, participants revealed that since 1990, the NDF has been actively involved in dealing with threats to national security.

Another finding that emerged from the study concerning the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in security operations in Namibia is that since 1990, the NDF has been committed to the efforts of providing security to Namibian citizens. One example given by the participants is the security incident in the Zambezi region. The Namibian Defence Force was deployed in response to the August 1999, armed men belonging to the Caprivi Liberation Movement (CLM) launched an attack on government installations in Katima Mulilo, to bring about the secession of the then Caprivi region (now Zambezi

region) from Namibia. Additionally, the NDF has been engaged in a joint anti-poaching operation in major national parks in Namibia since 2014 till present. Notably, the protracted operation seems to outstretch the NDF resources in terms of manpower. The NDF cannot deploy for an extended period due to poaching upsurge.

Moreover, the aspect to consider when deploying the military, is that they resume overall command. However, this often becomes problematic particularly during crime prevention operations as the military is not trained on crime prevention for them to resume the overall command. Notably, the aspect of deployment military domestically reduces the respect bestowed upon them by the civilian population as opposed to seeing them during high-impact operations.

The participants demonstrated a generally good understanding of the nature of the domestic deployment of the NDF in security operations in Namibia since 1990. Mostly they described this nature of domestic deployment in terms of defending the country or country's Regions from instability and security threats.

Research findings also show that since independence, the NDF has actively committed to confronting challenges to national security challenges in the Zambezi Region. The efforts of the NDF in responding to the killing of Namibian citizens in the late 1990s overfishing rights in the Zambezi region is one such example. The findings further indicate that the NDF was also engaged in joint inclusive operations which were code-named Operation Hornkranz and Operation Kahalari Desert to reduce crime in the city and major towns of Namibia.



A key issue that emerged from the findings is that the NDF since 1990 has been actively involved in joint crime prevention operations. NDF has been conducting joint operations with the Namibian Police Force; and fire-fighting services since 1990. The results of the study indicate that since independence the NDF has rendered support services to the civil authorities such as the police in preventing crime in Namibia. results of the study show that when called upon to do so the NDF was deployed together with law enforcement from the period 1990-2019.

One of the key aims of the study was to establish the nature of NDF domestic deployment in internal security operations. In this regard, one of the key issues that arose was the NDF's response to national disasters. Findings show that the NDF has in the past deployed its members to help the Namibian communities in situations that require humanitarian assistance. Results show that when there was a flood in northern Namibia, the NDF intervened by sending assistance to evacuate the people and to rescue some who were trapped as well as their animals. Findings show that in November 2011, the NDF actively reacted to the environmental security threat of floods by assisting the affected communities in the Northern parts of Namibia. Apart from floods, the results indicate that the NDF has also been partnering with fire service providers in dealing with wildfires.

### **5.2.2 The challenges of military domestic deployment in internal security operations in Namibia**

Findings show that training is one of the challenges that NDF members have cited as prohibitive in their quest to discharge their constitutional duties regarding military operations in providing internal security in Namibia. Findings show that although the members are trained to deal with issues of warfare and threats to national security, the

nature of emerging threats to national security are evolving and therefore there is a gap in training in dealing with such threats to internal security.

One of the key findings that emerged from the study is that there is a lack of proper orientation to the tasks when deployment of NDF members happens since the NDF is called to be deployed, it happens in emergencies hence there is no ample time to orient the members. Findings show that members of the NDF have demonstrated a lack of orientation to some of the tasks from 1990 to 2019.

Findings show that Often the soldiers involved in internal security operations are not properly equipped for the task. Soldiers engaged in internal operations who are only equipped with guns will use them if their lives are threatened by a hostile mob. However, findings reveal that when faced with volatile situations, members of the NDF use guns. Findings also show that in 1998 the NDF members were accused of killing 14 unarmed civilians. Findings show that in the volatile situation of August 1998, the NDF responded swiftly and contained the insurgency, leading to the arrest of more than 140 people while at least 14 individuals were killed.

Findings show that another challenge is the lack of proper strategies and tactics. Findings show that some of the most used principles objectiveness, offensiveness, surprise, security, unity of command, economy of force, mass, and manoeuvre are used against non-volatile situations. The findings reveal that the NDF members were exposed to tactics such as the envelopment tactic which is the unexpected appearance of enemy troops on a flank or from behind that can damage an army's morale, and if a force is encircled it can be deprived of supplies or attacked from any side. However, when dealing with invisible

threats to national security such tactics are difficult to employ and that poses challenges regarding how the military is supposed to respond.

Findings show that most participants disputed the preparedness of the NDF in dealing with invisible threats on account of not having available funds as well as equipment needed to respond effectively to internal security threats such as floods and drought.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the research findings, the following strategies are recommended to address the main research objectives on the domestic deployment of the military.

#### **5.3.1 Joint Training Doctrine for all Security Clusters**

Research results also suggest that one of the measures that can be adopted in responding to national security is the provision of training to members of the NDF and other security clusters on how to deal with internal security threats. Data analysis also suggested that during the training, the training manuals or doctrines should also be inclusive of how the NDF should respond to the civilian crises and which security cluster is to resume overall command depending on the threat levels.

#### **5.3.2 Need for a dedicated budget to cater for emergency operations**

The study recommends that the measures that could be adopted in responding to national security are to always plan for emergency budgets and emergency relief. Participants also suggested having reserve funds and supplies that can be used in the state of emergency.

### **5.3.3 Need to review the legal framework on when to domestically deploy the military**

Literature and findings suggest that the military often attains operational success during domestic deployment, particularly when helping the police to minimize crime. However, it is not desirable to deploy the military to maintain and sustain law and order over an extended period, as the professional image of the military will be tainted. Therefore, the military should be only deployed for a limited period when matters of national security arise and then return to the barracks.

### **5.3.4 Need to limit the domestic deployment of the military**

Presently, the NDF engaged in poaching operations since 2014. This often overstretches the NDF, which further limits them to adequately prepare for the constitutional mandate. Therefore, the NDF only need to be deployed during matters of national security concern not to assist in fighting crime in the city and towns.

### **5.3.5 Need to train the NDF on its Secondary roles**

NDF personnel should improve their readiness to respond to invisible threats towards human security by ensuring that they are adequately trained to deal with emergencies and on how to enforce regulations related to state emergencies. Findings reiterate the need for retraining and training drills aimed at combatting internal security threats, rescues as well as isolation and evacuation.

### **5.3.6 Need it Improve Civil-Military Relations**

Findings show the need for an improved civil control of the military, across the various arms of government. As the representatives of the people, for instance, an improved parliamentary oversight by the National Assembly which is empowered to ensure the military complies with the regulations guiding its missions would improve compliance. This can also include making publicly available, the military rules of engagement for every internal security operation in the country.

The benefit of this is that it will improve accountability, ensure compliance, and serve as the standard to assess the performance and activities of personnel deployed for every ISOP in society. Without this, it becomes difficult to determine which actions of personnel are appropriate, when to use force on civilians, and the extent to which force can be used against a protesting or riotous civilian group. Similarly, another important area of consideration relates to the role of an independent military ombudsman who can effectively intervene in the areas of military abuse. While at present, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria performs similar activities an ombudsman can perform, an independent military ombudsman dedicated to addressing issues of military abuses is more beneficial (Shiff, 2015; De Coning, 2015 & Franke, 2017).

### **5.4 Recommendation(s) for further studies**

Given the fact that the study did provide an exhaustive exploration of the NDF response to national security threats from 1990-2019. For further studies, the study recommends a study that looks at the involvement of the military in external security operations from 2010 to 2023.

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1. 17161733 Maj VN Showa is a final year student who is studying towards the Masters of Arts in Security and Strategic Studies with the University of Namibia, School of Military Science. The Officer completed her course work and is left only with the Thesis. To complete the Thesis as per requisite, the member is expected to collect data in order to finalise her research.
2. The Theme for the Thesis is "An Evaluation on Military Intervention in Namibia: 1990-2015".
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**RESEARCH PERMISSION LETTER**

Date: 11/08/2022

**Student Name:** VERONIKA NANGULA SHOWA

**Student Number:** 220075220

**Programme:** Masters of Arts in Security and Strategic Studies

**Approved Research Title:** AN EVALUATION ON MILITARY INTERVENTION IN NAMIBIA:1990-2015.

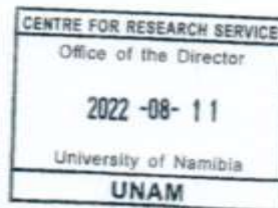
**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I hereby confirm that the above-mentioned student is registered at the University of Namibia for the programme indicated. The proposed study met all the requirements as stipulated in the University guidelines and has been approved by the relevant committees.

The proposal adheres to ethical principles as per attached Ethical Clearance Certificate. Permission is hereby granted to carry out the research as described in the approved proposal.

Best Regards

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## ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

**Ethical Clearance Reference Number: SOS-0082    Date: 18 July 2022**

This Ethical Clearance Certificate is issued by the University of Namibia Ethics Committee (REC) in accordance with the University of Namibia's Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines. Ethical approval is given in respect of undertakings contained in the Research Project outlined below. This Certificate is issued on the recommendations of the ethical evaluation done by the ethics committee.

**Title of Project:** AN EVALUATION ON MILITARY INTERVENTION IN NAMIBIA:1990-2015

**Student:** VERONIKA NANGULA SHOWA

**Student Number:** 220075220

**Supervisor(s):** DR. CHECK ACHU

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3. The Principal Researcher must report issues of ethical compliance to the ethics committee (through the Chairperson) at the end of the Project or as may be requested by the ethics committee
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The ethics committee wishes you the best in your research.

Dr. Zivah Chiguvare (Chairperson Ethics Committee)

Prof. Davis Mumbengegwi (Head, Multidisciplinary Research)

ECS-01-2023

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This is to certify that the thesis titled

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By: Veronika Nangula Showa

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