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Physical Patrol and Border Security Management at the Namanga One Stop Boarder Post, Kenya

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Abstract

Border administration encompasses all legal and administrative measures a sovereign state implements to secure, protect, and strengthen the sovereignty, security, safety, and integrity of its territory. Consequently, it is essential to any national migration strategy. The border administration policies emphasize the necessity for all participants in border management to be engaged to enhance the effectiveness of border operations. Security measures are normally enhanced along the border posts to improve on the national security of a given country by preventing entrance of terrorists, illegal goods and human trafficking. These security measures ensure safety at the border. The primary objective was to evaluate the effects of physical patrol on border security management at the Namanga one stop boarder post, Kenya. A descriptive survey research design was utilized. The population comprised of the employees at the Namanga OSBP, including police officers, customs officials, immigration officers, and National Intelligence Service employees, among others. The research used stratified random sampling. The data was collected via the use of questionnaires. Data analysis was done with the help

of SPSS and then presented using tables, percentages, graphs and pie charts. This study found out that border security is complex and it requires various interventions, which entails a combination of technology and human security personnel for effective operations. In regard to objective one, the researcher finds that physical patrol emerges as a fundamental border security management measure, and is considered essential in enhancing security at the border point by minimizing insecurity incidents and eliminating potential of border security breaches. Based on the findings, this study concluded that various security measures, including physical patrols, integrated scanning, and electronic monitoring, are essential in the management of border security and in enhancing services. A major recommendation of the study is to promote greater multi-agency and multi-stakeholder collaboration as a means of detaining individuals attempting to enter a country illegally and effectively seizing any contraband goods. This necessitates more efficient border patrols and surveillance strategies.

Keywords: Border Administration, Border Management, Security Measures, Border Posts, National Security, Physical Patrol, One Stop Boarder Post

1. Introduction

The concept of border security management as complex, which suggest the reason for the existence of the various definitions. According to the Homeland Security Department of the United States, securing the borders means policing the borders on the prohibition of the unauthorized movement of goods, especially arms, drugs substance, prohibited goods and persons while simplifying the movement of legal merchandise and people. According to Manjarrez (2015)^[7] border security can be defined as a situational awareness of the border that hinders the competence of the criminal operatives to complete their strategies. The idea here is to avoid making the border sentry uncontrolled so as to make the quality of life for the residents and the legal businesses better, while at the same reducing the threat that the same border poses to the economic health of that country. As a result, Manjarrez (2015)^[7] pointed out that absence of lethal force is not sufficient to achieve border security management; they opined that no one gets into the country unless there is a legal right to do so. Those who violate the provided regulations must face the repercussions attached to the breaches. Border security management, from time memorial, has been ensured

through ensuring physical border security, which entails the deployment of security personnel. However, this has been enhanced through the adoption of technologies such as electronic surveillance and the use of integrated scanners at the various entry points. Fundamentally, such measures are critical in enhancing border security management in various countries around the world.

Border security varies from country to country due to historical, socio-cultural, political, and geographical differences. According to historical accounts, mountain ranges, rivers, and deserts predominantly defined territorial boundaries. Globally, countries confront comparable difficulties as far as border security is concerned (Williams, 2019) ^[12]. Cross-border crimes and the criminal gangs have prompted the international community to tighten border controls and recognize the accelerating pace of change. Between October 2018 and September 2019 (the United States government's fiscal year), law enforcement personnel from Customs and border protection arrested almost one million illegal immigrants penetrating through the southwest border (Miller, 2019) ^[8]. In this regard, customs and border security personnel had to handle this humanitarian dilemma while enforcing their nation's laws and regulations, protecting American citizens by intercepting extremely dangerous drugs and criminals crossing their borders, and facilitating legitimate trade and movement at approximately 328 American ports of entry.

The U.S. immigration system has been under increasing duress over the past decade. After COVID-19 caused a drop in arrivals in 2020, illicit border incursions skyrocketed to record levels. During financial year 2022 (FY2022), United States immigration authorities arrested a record-breaking 2.3 million persons. Midway through 2023, this number had already surpassed 1.6 million, with roughly a quarter of all migrants hailing from the so-called Northern Triangle nations. Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Since May 2023, however, illicit crossings have unexpectedly decreased as a result of the Biden administration's repeal of Title 42, an emergency public health decree implemented by Trump that permitted border authorities to expel migrants promptly. The study overlooked how targeted security measures at OSBPs could improve border management efficiency, especially in regions with complex migration dynamics and cross-border trade. It lacked focus on the effectiveness of security protocols at OSBPs in preventing illicit incursions and managing legal crossings. Addressing these gaps could reveal how physical patrol measures at OSBPs enhance border management while balancing security and efficient movement.

Border security concerns have also been witnessed in Colombia-Venezuela border, which has prompted the United States to issue a number of advisories to her citizens against approaching the border area to avoid inadvertent entry into Venezuelan territory. Venezuelans migrate to Colombia and other nations due to the protracted hyperinflation, pervasive corruption, inadequate economic governance, and little economic diversification, all of which have significantly impacted Venezuela (Luibhéid & Chávez, 2020) ^[6]. To foster socio-economic development as well as security in border regions, the Venezuelan Government initiated a project named "Borders of Peace" in October 2015. This initiative was anticipated to also support UNHCR's individuals of concern. The Colombia-Venezuela border has been designated as a hot spot owing to many

issues including crime (such as smuggling and human trafficking), terrorism, among other concerns. The existing analysis did not explore how the OSBP framework might enhance border management efficiency, reduce crime, and facilitate legal crossings in such complex settings. A study that addresses these aspects could provide valuable insights into the role of physical patrols in managing security and promoting stability in high-risk border areas like the Colombia-Venezuela region.

In African countries such as Nigeria, border security has become a significant challenge and a significant issue to address (Ikeanyibe *et al.*, 2023) ^[5]. The current circumstances have given birth to transnational criminal activities, including the illicit trafficking of products and narcotics, unauthorized movement of individuals, human trafficking, money laundering, theft, abduction, and even acts of terrorism, as shown by the Boko Haram group. These activities pose a significant danger to the national security of Nigeria. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Nigeria is actively assisting the government in the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking (Drumond & Rebelo, 2020) ^[3]. There was a gap in understanding how OSBPs could streamline border security measures, enhance coordination among security agencies, and improve the detection and prevention of illicit activities at border crossings. Addressing this gap could provide valuable insights into how physical patrols might strengthen Nigeria's border management while balancing the need for efficient legal cross-border movement.

Kenya has experienced border security challenges in her border with Somalia. Terrorist attacks have been a significant concern for Kenya's national security, particularly over the last two decades. The underlying issue of insecurity stems from the collapse of Somalia in 1991, which has led to cross-border crime and illegal migration posing threats to Kenya's security (Horn Policy Brief, 2017) ^[4]. After 2006, the Somalia-based terrorist group al Shabab began to infiltrate the porous Kenya-Somalia border, recruiting locals for radicalization, training, and deployment to carry out attacks within Kenya. The escalation of lethal assaults prompted the Kenyan government, on October 14, 2011, to deploy its troops into Somalia to diminish the insurgents' capacity to execute attacks in Kenya. Simultaneously, specialized security units, supported by the Kenya Defense Force (KDF), were stationed along the border to prevent further

Kenya has established One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), such as the Namanga OSBP, which is designed not only to support and facilitate cross-border trading activities, but also to serve as a border security management point. The OSBP serves as a hub for cross-border commerce, and this research contributes to our understanding of how to enhance and legitimize such economic activities while also resolving security concerns (Mutua & Felix, 2023) ^[9]. This highlights the dual role of OSBPs as both economic facilitators and essential security checkpoints, addressing the interconnected challenges of trade and security. The African borders are often plagued by various insecurity issues. African states are endeavoring to synchronize their border management practices in light of the aforementioned common obstacles, with the aim of fostering economic progress and integration (Zanker, 2019) ^[13]. This observation reflects the broader regional effort to align border security initiatives, recognizing the critical role of collaborative practices in

promoting stability and economic growth across African nations. In response, just like Kenya's approach with its border with Somalia, states are striving to synchronize their border management practices in light of these shared challenges, aiming to enhance security while fostering economic progress and regional integration (Zanker, 2019) [13]. Kenya has established One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), such as the Namanga OSBP, which is designed not only to support and facilitate cross-border trading activities but also to serve as a border security management point. The example of Kenya's border with Somalia demonstrates how border synchronization is not only about standardizing procedures but also about creating frameworks that balance security needs with economic development and cooperation. Despite all these regulations and other measures put in place, the country continues to experience cases of illegal immigrants, illicit firearms, contraband products and human trafficking activities in some of her critical border points. For instance, the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) has identified the Namanga OSBP as one of the main entry points for drugs. In 2019, the law enforcers seized consignment of different types of gemstones including Tanzanite at the Namanga OSBP that was in the process of being smuggled out to the neighboring Kenya (The Citizen, 2019) [11]. These two examples are clear pointer to the fact that Namanga One Stop Border Point continues to act as a conduit point to illicit drugs and other contrabands that could pose security risk to Kenya. The problem therefore resided in the fact that despite all the measures put in place to ensure border security, there are still several cases of security lapses at the Namanga One Stop Border point. Further, there has been limited evaluation on the effectiveness of the physical patrol measures put in place. The aim of this research was to evaluate the efficacy of these physical patrol measures implemented at the Namanga OSBP in boosting border security.

2. Materials and methods

Descriptive survey research design was adopted as it represents the collection of issues, people or occurrences. Descriptive survey research design also assisted in the evaluation of various measures and border security at Namanga OSBP, Kajiado County, Kenya. It is appropriate because the study will not alter or control any variable of the study but shall aim at describing the current status concerning the borders security measures at the Namanga Border Point.

The research was based in Namanga OSBP as the geographical study area. The Namanga OSBP is located in Kajiado County, Kenya which borders Longido District in (Tanzania). The border is approximately 174Kms from Nairobi-KE and 100Kms from Arusha-TZ. Namanga OSBP was chosen for this study because most studies related to border security have paid more attention to other border points such as Kenya-Somalia which was viewed to be more hostile while ignoring the Namanga border which has also continued to experience serious security risks. Additionally, the Namanga OSBP was of interest to the researcher since it had had various incidences of insecurity and criminal activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling which formed the basis of this study.

In this study, the target population was 140, comprising of immigration officers, KRA Customs officials, National

Police Service Officers and the National Intelligence Personnel. Table 1 below shows the target population distribution.

Table 1: Target Population Distribution

Population Category	Population
National Police Officers	41
Immigration Personnel	37
KRA Customs officials	47
National Intelligence Personnel	15
Sum	140

In this study, both the stratified and simple random sampling techniques were employed. The study established strata by categorizing the different departments participating in the investigation. Thereafter, the researcher went ahead and conducted simple random sampling from the different strata. The study used a sample of 133 respondents as shown:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n= Sample size, N= Population Size e= Margin of Error (At a 98% confidence level)
 n= 135/1+135 (0.02)² =133

Table 2: Sampling Size

Participants	Population	Sample
National Police Officers	41	39
Immigration Personnel	37	35
KRA Customs officials	47	45
National Intelligence Personnel	15	14
Sum	140	133

Source: Survey from Namanga OSBP 2024

Beginning with questionnaire surveys, the researcher administered questionnaires physically to the participants since the researcher was there in person. The transmission of data took five days. In order to enhance the process of analysis and minimize potential errors, it is advisable to include closed-ended questions into the questionnaire. This facilitated efficient collection of data within a condensed timeframe. Secondary data was extracted from admissions records as required.

Data was obtained from participants using questionnaires. Some of the benefits of using questionnaires includes; ease of development of questionnaires, there exists a wide variety of questionnaires available for use with some being available freely to researchers, they are flexible in that they can be easily transported or made available online, they are easy to use in compiling large data sets with ease, either personally, through mail systems, the internet or emails, the data collected through questionnaires is also relatively easy to analyze compared to Questionnaires shall be used because;- Questionnaires enable the researcher to collect data easily and also analyze it easily.

This research entailed a thorough assessment and purification of the dataset to rectify any inaccuracies, discrepancies, or missing data points. Furthermore, the researcher appropriately structured the data. The researcher thereafter examined the qualities, factors, and distribution of the data. Descriptive statistics was employed. Upon gathering data, it was then analyzed. The study strictly adhered to the principles of confidentiality throughout. The

participants voluntarily participated in this research. Strict adherence to anonymity was maintained at a high level. The surveys only served the goal of academic research.

3. Results and discussion

The participants were requested to state whether frequent physical patrols at the Namanga OSBP have significantly mitigated the security risks along the border. From the analysis, 66.36% of the participants confirmed that frequent physical patrols had mitigated security risks, while 33.64% were of a different view. Fig 1 below illustrates these findings.

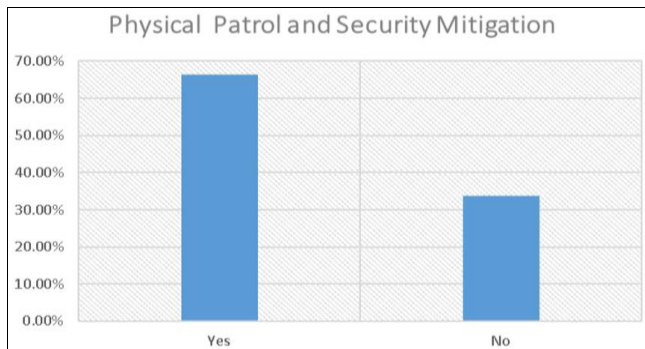


Fig 1: Physical Patrol and Security Mitigation

The participants were requested to state whether regular physical patrols at the Namanga OSBP have significantly reduced the rate of insecurity incidences within the place. From the analysis, 76.36% of the participants confirmed that insecurity incidences have reduced around the OSBP due to the regular patrols, while 23.64% were of a different view. Fig 2 below illustrates these findings.

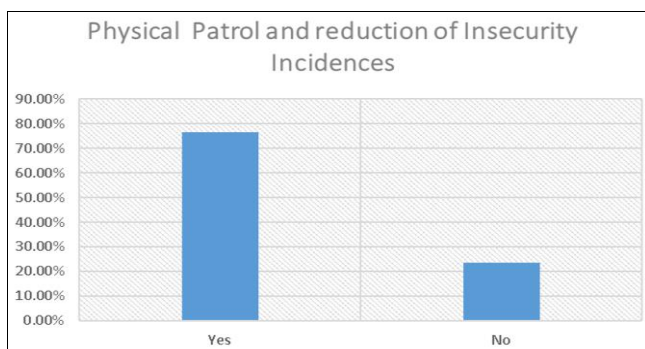


Fig 2: Physical Patrol and Reduction in Insecurity Incidences

Fig 2 demonstrate that physical patrols are critical mitigating security risks along the border, as well as in the reduction of insecurity incidences and threats, which in the long run has improved the operations of customs and immigration personnel stationed at the Namanga OSBP. These findings are in tandem with studies of various scholars such as Coole & Brooks (2021)^[2], Alden (2017)^[1] and Rosenblum and Hipsman (2016)^[10], among others. Therefore, physical patrols along the OBSP are critical in improving security and enhancing operations. One of the National Intelligence personnel interviewed explained...

“A majority of our colleagues here at the border post, have expressed confidence that frequent patrols have effectively reduced security risks along the border. This perspective would be suggesting that these

patrols are serving as a strong deterrent to potential threats and enhance overall security in the area.”

One of the primary benefits of frequent physical patrols in security is their deterrent effect on potential criminal or unauthorized activities. A consistent security presence communicates vigilance and readiness, which can discourage individuals or groups from engaging in illicit activities within a patrolled area. Coole & Brooks (2021)^[2] demonstrate in his study that the practice of physical security patrol involves the deployment of individuals to conduct physical inspections and monitoring of a specific area with the aim of ensuring the security and safety of the place. The visible presence of security personnel provides reassurance to law-abiding individuals while signaling to potential offenders that they are likely to be observed and apprehended. For border areas like Namanga, frequent patrols act as a critical line of defense against smuggling, human trafficking, and other cross-border crimes. This visible presence also fosters a sense of safety and stability within communities and businesses that operate in these regions. Such patrols enhance the perception of order, making it clear that the area is being actively monitored and protected.

Analysis of the collected data based on the various objectives suggest that various security strategies are critical in the enhancement of border security management at the Namanga one stop boarder post, Kajiado county, Kenya. The Namanga OSBP has significantly adopted physical patrol as a security management measures, which about 95% of the respondents, believe has been critical in enhancing border security management at the border point by minimizing insecurity incidents and eliminating potential of border security breaches. Therefore, there is a collective agreement that physical security patrol, other than improving border security management has been essential in improving the effectiveness of customs and immigration officials. A KRA Customs official reported...

“There has been a clear reduction in the frequency of security incidents at the border since the introduction of regular patrols. The visible presence of security personnel has been effective in deterring criminal activities and enhancing overall border safety, contributing to a more controlled operational environment. But there have also been isolated security challenges arising, indicating that while regular patrols have been beneficial, further strategies may be needed to address complex, evolving risks comprehensively.”

Physical patrols contribute significantly to the rapid response capabilities of a security system. Personnel patrolling an area are already on the ground and able to quickly assess and respond to incidents as they arise. This immediacy is invaluable in security situations where response time is critical to minimizing harm, apprehending offenders, or securing evidence. At high-traffic areas like the Namanga Border Post, security risks can escalate quickly due to the volume and diversity of border crossings. Patrolling personnel can provide immediate intervention in the event of security breaches, unauthorized crossings, or other threats. Their proximity to incidents not only allows for faster intervention but also supports effective

communication with central command or other security forces. This real-time action can prevent situations from escalating, reduce risks to civilians, and contribute to an overall more secure environment.

Physical patrols also facilitate interaction between security personnel and the local population, fostering trust and creating opportunities for intelligence gathering. Patrol officers often become familiar faces in the areas they secure, encouraging civilians to report suspicious activities or provide tips that might not otherwise come to light. A National Police Service Officer at the border post shared that...

“Regular patrols have notably enhanced our ability to identify and address security breaches. These increased patrol presence supports closer monitoring and quicker identification of suspicious activities, which has strengthened our collaborative efforts with the customs, and immigration personnel. This collaboration has led to more effective responses to security threats and improved overall security coordination at the border.”

This relationship-building aspect of physical patrols is critical in areas where cooperation between the public and security agencies is essential for effective security measures. In border settings, intelligence from local communities can provide insights into smuggling routes, emerging threats, or individuals of interest, allowing patrol officers to better target and adapt their strategies. Alden (2017)^[1] and Rosenblum and Hipsman (2016)^[10] concur that physical security patrol is a critical tool in criminal deterrence, hence an effective approach in eliminating transnational criminal components and activities, including but not limited to malicious and criminal operations. Moreover, as officers become acquainted with regular patterns and individuals in the area, they can more readily identify irregularities that might indicate security threats. This dynamic, information-rich approach contributes to a proactive security posture that complements traditional patrol duties with insights directly from the community, enhancing the overall effectiveness of security operations at border locations.

Various strategies of security management exist, and security experts agree that a single strategy is not sufficient in the management of security at border entry points due to the involvement of crime and criminals. Therefore, diverse security measures must continuously be adopted to improve security and enhance the operations of customs and immigration officials at the OSBPs. Security management approaches such as physical patrol, the adoption of integrated scanners, and the adoption of electronic surveillance systems such as cameras have been considered effective in improving security at the border points as well as in improving the effectiveness of the immigration and customs personnel at the border points, such as the Namanga OSBP.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the custom administration authorities should continuously strive to embrace practices that make the process of cross-border trade simple, safe, secure and efficient; fundamentally embedded in technology. The study also recommends that the government of Kenya should consider digging tunnels around the porous border. This will

help in the elimination of security threats and in enhancing the effectiveness of custom and immigration officials.

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