

Assessment of the Working Relationship Between Namibian Police Investigators and Prosecutors: A Case Study of the Okahandja Magisterial District

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ABSTRACT

Effective collaboration between police investigators and prosecutors is fundamental to the successful administration of criminal justice. This study assessed the working relationship between investigators of the Namibian Police Force and prosecutors at the Okahandja Magistrate Court, with the aim of identifying factors that influence collaboration, challenges affecting interagency cooperation, and strategies for improving prosecution outcomes. A qualitative case study design was employed, using semi-structured interviews with prosecutors and police investigators actively involved in criminal case management. Data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings indicate that although collaboration between investigators and prosecutors is generally constructive, its effectiveness is constrained by poor communication, delayed prosecutorial decisions, incomplete investigations, heavy workloads, inadequate resources, and limited opportunities for joint training. Participants identified mutual respect, professional competence, timely communication, prosecution-guided investigations, and adherence to established procedures as key contributors to successful collaboration. The study concludes that strengthening collaboration between investigators and prosecutors can improve investigation quality, reduce delays, enhance prosecution success, and increase public confidence in the criminal justice system. It recommends institutionalizing joint training programs, improving communication mechanisms, strengthening prosecution-guided investigations, increasing resource allocation, and developing standardized interagency collaboration protocols.

Keywords: Police investigators, prosecutors, collaboration, criminal justice, prosecution-guided investigations.

INTRODUCTION

Collaboration between police investigators and prosecutors is fundamental to the effective functioning of criminal justice systems. Criminal investigations and prosecutions are interdependent processes in which investigators are responsible for gathering evidence, identifying suspects, interviewing witnesses, and preparing investigation dockets, while prosecutors evaluate the legal sufficiency of evidence, determine appropriate charges, and present cases before the courts. The effectiveness of these complementary roles depends on continuous communication, mutual trust, and coordinated decision-making throughout the criminal justice process (Alpert & Dunham, 2017; Geldenhuys, 2017; Nugent-Borakove et al., 2009).

Research has consistently shown that effective interagency collaboration improves investigation quality, strengthens prosecutorial decision-making, enhances case management, and contributes to fair and timely administration of justice (Bryson et al., 2015; Hollis, 2016; O'Leary & Vij, 2012). Conversely, weak collaboration may result in incomplete investigations, procedural errors, delayed prosecutions, case withdrawals,

and increased court backlogs, thereby undermining the effectiveness and credibility of the criminal justice system (Huxham & Vangen, 2005; Nugent-Borakove et al., 2009).

Within Namibia, police investigators and prosecutors perform complementary but distinct responsibilities in criminal justice system. Investigators employed by the Namibian Police Force are responsible for collecting and preserving evidence and compiling investigation dockets, whereas prosecutors determine whether the available evidence satisfies the legal threshold for prosecution. Consequently, successful criminal prosecutions depend not only on the quality of investigations but also on effective coordination and communication between these two institutions (Geldenhuys, 2017).

The Okahandja Magisterial District provides an appropriate setting for examining this collaborative relationship because it serves a geographically dispersed jurisdiction with a diverse criminal caseload. Operational challenges, including limited human and logistical resources, increasing workloads, and the need for continuous consultation during criminal investigations, make collaboration between investigators and prosecutors particularly important for efficient case management and prosecution outcomes.

This study assessed the working relationship between Namibian Police investigators and prosecutors at the Okahandja Magistrate Court. Specifically, the study examined the challenges affecting collaboration, identified organizational and interpersonal factors that facilitate effective cooperation, and proposed practical strategies for improving collaborative practices within the criminal justice system. By addressing these objectives, the study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on interagency collaboration and provides evidence that may inform policy development, institutional practice, and future research on criminal justice collaboration in Namibia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Police–Prosecutor Collaboration in the Criminal Justice System

Effective collaboration between police investigators and prosecutors is widely recognized as a cornerstone of an efficient criminal justice system. Although these professionals perform distinct functions, they share the common objective of ensuring that criminal cases are investigated thoroughly, prosecuted fairly, and concluded efficiently. Police investigators are responsible for gathering admissible evidence, identifying suspects, interviewing witnesses, and compiling investigation dockets, whereas prosecutors assess the legal sufficiency of evidence, determine appropriate charges, and conduct prosecutions in court (Alpert & Dunham, 2017; Geldenhuys, 2017). Consequently, the quality of criminal justice outcomes depends substantially on the effectiveness of their working relationship.

Interagency collaboration has been defined as the process through which organizations jointly address shared problems by coordinating resources, expertise, and decision-making to achieve outcomes that cannot be realized independently (Bryson et al., 2015). Within criminal justice systems, collaboration extends beyond routine communication to include joint planning, information sharing, coordinated case management, and mutual accountability. Effective collaboration enhances organizational performance by reducing duplication of effort, improving decision-making, and promoting efficient use of institutional resources (O'Leary & Vij, 2012).

Communication and Information Sharing

Communication consistently emerges in literature as the most important determinant of successful collaboration between investigators and prosecutors. Regular consultation enables prosecutors to provide legal guidance during investigations while allowing investigators to clarify evidential requirements before cases are enrolled for prosecution. Early and continuous communication reduces evidential deficiencies, strengthens case preparation, and minimizes avoidable procedural errors that may compromise criminal proceedings (Nugent-Borakove et al., 2009).

Conversely, ineffective communication frequently results in delayed investigations, incomplete dockets, inconsistent witness preparation, and unnecessary postponements. Bryson et al. (2015) argue that collaborative relationships deteriorate when institutions lack formal communication mechanisms or fail to establish shared expectations regarding responsibilities and decision-making. Similarly, Hollis (2016) emphasizes that sustainable criminal justice partnerships depend on continuous information sharing, organizational trust, and clearly defined communication channels.

Organizational and Professional Factors Influencing Collaboration

Despite pursuing the same overarching goal of justice, investigators and prosecutors often operate within different organizational cultures and professional frameworks. Investigators generally focus on crime detection, evidence collection, and suspect identification, whereas prosecutors emphasize legal sufficiency, procedural compliance, and ethical obligations to the court. These differing professional priorities may generate tension when prosecutors' request additional investigations or decline to prosecute matters that investigators consider complete (Alpert & Dunham, 2017).

Leadership also plays a critical role in fostering collaborative practice. Huxham and Vangen (2005) argue that collaborative advantage is achieved only when organizational leaders actively promote shared goals, encourage mutual accountability, and create environments that support interagency cooperation. In criminal justice settings, leadership commitment influences communication practices, resource allocation, conflict resolution, and the development of collaborative organizational cultures.

Resource Constraints and Case Management

The effectiveness of collaboration is closely linked to institutional capacity. Resource shortages—including inadequate staffing, insufficient operational vehicles, limited office infrastructure, and increasing caseload—reduction opportunities for consultation and delay criminal investigations. Heavy workloads may also restrict prosecutors' ability to provide early legal guidance and investigators' capacity to complete investigations within reasonable timeframes.

Effective case management requires coordinated planning between investigators and prosecutors throughout the criminal justice process. Nugent-Borakove et al. (2009) emphasize that structured case screening, early prosecutorial involvement, and regular case reviews improve prosecutorial efficiency while reducing unnecessary delays and court backlogs. These collaborative practices contribute to stronger evidence, improved witness management, and more effective utilization of institutional resources.

Building Effective Collaborative Relationships

Research demonstrates that successful collaboration depends not only on institutional structures but also on interpersonal relationships among criminal justice practitioners. Mutual trust, professional respect, openness, and shared responsibility encourage constructive problem-solving and facilitate coordinated decision-making (Johnson & Johnson, 2017). Collaborative relationships are further strengthened through regular interagency meetings, joint training programs, and opportunities for shared professional learning.

Joint training enables investigators and prosecutors to develop a common understanding of evidential standards, investigative procedures, witness management, and legal requirements. Bryson et al. (2015) contend that collaborative learning promotes organizational integration by fostering common objectives, improving communication, and reducing institutional barriers. Within criminal justice organizations, such initiatives may contribute to improved investigation quality, more consistent prosecutorial decision-making, and stronger professional relationships.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is informed by Collaboration Theory and Systems Theory.

Collaboration Theory, as advanced by Huxham and Vangen (2005), explains how organizations achieve outcomes through shared decision-making, mutual trust, effective communication, and coordinated action. The theory argues that collaboration generates "collaborative advantage," whereby organizations working together achieve results that would be difficult to accomplish independently. This perspective provides an appropriate framework for examining the relationship between police investigators and prosecutors because both institutions depend on cooperation to achieve successful prosecution outcomes.

Systems Theory complements this perspective by conceptualizing the criminal justice system as an interconnected network of institutions whose effectiveness depends on their interaction. Changes or weaknesses within one component of the system inevitably influence the performance of others. Accordingly, ineffective communication, inadequate resources, or delays in investigations affect prosecutorial decision-making and, ultimately, the efficiency of the courts. Systems Theory therefore highlights the importance of coordinated institutional functioning in achieving effective criminal justice outcomes.

Research Gap

Although collaboration between police investigators and prosecutors has received increasing scholarly attention internationally, limited empirical research has examined this relationship within the Namibian criminal justice system. Most available studies focus on policing, prosecution, or criminal justice administration more broadly rather than on operational collaboration at magistrate court level. This lack of context-specific evidence limits the development of policies and institutional practices designed to strengthen interagency cooperation. By examining collaboration between investigators and prosecutors at the Okahandja Magistrate Court, this study contributes empirical evidence to an under-researched area of criminal justice in Namibia and provides practical recommendations for improving collaborative practice.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study adopted a qualitative approach using a case study design to examine the working relationship between Namibian Police investigators and prosecutors at the Okahandja Magistrate Court. The qualitative design was appropriate because the study sought to understand participants' experiences, perceptions, and explanations of collaboration rather than to statistically measure the relationship between variables. The case study design enabled the researcher to examine police-prosecutor collaboration within its specific institutional and operational context (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Yin, 2018).

Study Setting

The study was conducted at the Okahandja Magistrate Court in the Otjozondjupa Region of Namibia. The court serves Okahandja, Ovitoto, Hochfeld, and surrounding communities and therefore provides a relevant setting for examining interactions between police investigators and prosecutors involved in criminal case management.

Population and Sampling

The study involved 12 participants: 10 Namibian Police investigators and two prosecutors. Participants were purposively selected because of their direct involvement in criminal investigations, prosecution, and court proceedings. The police participants were drawn from investigative units operating within the Okahandja policing jurisdiction.

The sample was intentionally information-rich rather than statistically representative. However, the substantial imbalance between investigators and prosecutors is an important limitation. The perspectives of police investigators therefore constitute a larger proportion of the dataset than those of prosecutors. In interpreting the findings, the study consequently does not assume that the views of the ten investigators are equivalent to those of the two prosecutors or that the findings represent the views of all police officers or prosecutors in Namibia.

Data Collection

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews. The interview guide addressed participants' experiences of collaboration, communication, challenges, factors promoting cooperation, and areas requiring improvement. Semi-structured interviewing allowed the researcher to maintain consistency across participants while providing sufficient flexibility to explore issues emerging from participants' experiences.

The study instrument contained open-ended questions concerning challenges encountered during collaboration, the contribution of effective collaboration to criminal case outcomes, factors influencing collaboration, areas requiring improvement, and obstacles affecting police–prosecutor cooperation.

Data Analysis

Interview data were analyzed using thematic analysis. Audio recordings were transcribed and reviewed repeatedly to familiarize the researcher with the dataset. The researcher then identified meaningful units of text and assigned initial codes to statements relevant to the research questions. Codes reflecting similar concepts were grouped into categories, after which related categories were consolidated into broader themes.

The final themes were reviewed against the original interview material to ensure that they accurately represented participants' accounts. The themes were subsequently organized around the study objectives and interpreted in relation to the literature and theoretical framework. This process resulted in themes concerning challenges to collaboration, the perceived importance of collaboration, factors facilitating cooperation, and areas requiring improvement.

Because the study was conducted by a single researcher, coding and theme development were undertaken by one researcher. This represents a potential source of interpretive subjectivity. To mitigate this risk, the researcher maintained an audit trail, used reflexive notes, and employed member checking. Participants were given an opportunity to verify the accuracy of information attributed to their experiences.

Trustworthiness

To enhance the trustworthiness of the study, the principles of credibility, dependability, Trustworthiness was addressed through credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability. Credibility was supported through direct engagement with participants and member checking. Dependability was enhanced through documentation of the research process and maintenance of an audit trail. Reflexive note-taking was used to encourage awareness of potential researcher bias, particularly because the researcher has a professional policing background. These measures were intended to strengthen the credibility and confirmability of the interpretation.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval and institutional permission were obtained before the commencement of data collection. Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all participants after explaining the purpose of the study, the procedures involved, and their right to withdraw at any stage without penalty. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by removing all identifying information from interview transcripts and reporting findings in a manner that protected participants' identities. The study adhered to the ethical principles of respect for persons, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice throughout the research process (American Psychological Association, 2020).

RESULTS

The analysis of the completed questionnaires produced six interconnected themes: (1) communication and consultation, (2) workload and resource constraints, (3) delays and case management, (4) the importance of prosecution-guided investigation, (5) trust, professional relationships and shared responsibilities, and (6) areas requiring improvement. The findings are presented as qualitative themes.

Communication and Consultation

Communication emerged as one of the strongest recurring concerns across the completed questionnaires. Participants referred to inadequate consultation, delayed information sharing, limited accessibility, and difficulties obtaining timely guidance from the other institution.

One participant emphasized the need for continuous engagement between investigators and prosecutors, stating that:

“the investigator and prosecutors need to make time to constantly engage.” (Police Investigator 1)

The same participant stressed that communication should accompany instructions provided during case preparation, noting that there should be “proper communication when instructions are given” so that unrealistic instructions are avoided.

Another participant identified the absence of clear communication structures as a barrier, stating that:

“lack of clear communication channels and information sharing can hinder collaboration.”(Police Investigator 2)

The participant further associated inadequate trust with reluctance to share information, noting that a “lack of trust can lead to secrecy, withholding information and reluctance to share ideas.”

These responses indicate that participants viewed communication as more than the simple exchange of information. They associated effective collaboration with accessibility, consultation, feedback, trust, and the ability to discuss cases before problems become difficult to resolve.

Workload, Staffing and Resource Constraints

Resource limitations and workload were also prominent in the responses. Participants identified shortages of personnel, operational resources, and time as factors that make collaboration difficult.

One participant listed several practical obstacles, including “shortage of manpower and work overload,” together with case backlogs and delays in court proceedings. (Police Investigator 3)

Another participant reported:

“Limited time and overloaded workload in both offices make it difficult to collaborate.”(Prosecutor 1)

The same participant also identified resource and capacity concerns, referring to the need for both institutions to be adequately resourced and noting the importance of appropriate training and exposure to the working environment of the other institution.

These responses suggest that collaboration is affected not only by interpersonal relationships but also by the organizational capacity available to investigators and prosecutors. Participants perceived workload pressures as reducing the time available for consultation and joint problem-solving.

Delays and Case Management

Participants identified several case-management problems affecting collaboration and the timely progression of criminal matters. These included trials not starting on time, lengthy trials, unnecessary postponements, and insufficient consultation with state witnesses, dockets arriving without adequate court dates or instructions, and cases being withdrawn while awaiting Prosecutor-General decisions.

One participant specifically identified:

“Trials not starting on time.”(Police Investigator 5)

The same participant reported “lengthy trials of cases taking years to finalize” and “unnecessary postponement of trials.” Lack of consultation between officers and prosecutors was also identified as a challenge.

Another participant identified the “placing of too many cases on one day for plea and trial” as a problem. (Police Investigator 6)

The participant further referred to state witnesses having to wait when trials do not proceed, excessive postponements, cases not being finalized on time, and pleas not being taken promptly when accused persons are ready to finalize their cases.

These responses provide direct support for the finding that case scheduling, consultation, and procedural delays affect the practical functioning of police–prosecutor collaboration.

Prosecution-Guided Investigation

The completed questionnaires provide particularly useful evidence concerning prosecution-guided investigation (PGI). Participants perceived early prosecutorial involvement as a means of improving investigative focus and reducing unnecessary delays.

One participant explained:

“It is important for police officers to carry out [prosecution]-guided investigations.” (Prosecutor 2)

The participant further explained that prosecutorial guidance could help investigators concentrate on the specific requirements of a case and ultimately assist with finalizing cases before court.

Another participant described the value of interaction between investigators and prosecutors by stating that “the investigator should share information with the prosecutor before the case proceeds further and obtain additional guidance where necessary”. (Prosecutor 1)

A further response recommended that investigators should discuss cases with prosecutors and ensure that the investigation is finalized before trial, while allowing for additional advice or instructions where required.

These responses indicate that participants did not view prosecution-guided investigation merely as an administrative procedure. Rather, they perceived it as a mechanism through which investigators and prosecutors could identify evidential or procedural deficiencies at an earlier stage.

Trust, Mutual Respect and Shared Responsibilities

Participants identified trust, mutual respect, communication, shared understanding, and teamwork as important factors supporting effective collaboration.

One participant identified several factors influencing collaboration, including:

“clear communication, shared understanding of legal procedures, mutual trust and respect.”(Prosecutor 1)

The same response also identified efficient information sharing, joint training and teamwork, dedicated collaboration mechanisms, leadership support, and effective workload management.

Another participant described effective collaboration as essentially involving teamwork directed towards a common objective:

“Effective collaboration is all about team work to achieve one goal.”(Police Investigator 7)

The participant connected this teamwork with mutual understanding and strong communication when resolving criminal-case matters.

Participants also identified professional attitudes as relevant to collaboration. One response called for investigators and prosecutors to “learn to work together to solve matters” and to focus on the work rather than personal matters. (Police Investigator 8)

These findings indicate that collaboration was perceived as involving both formal institutional arrangements and interpersonal relationships.

Training and Professional Development

Training was repeatedly identified as an area requiring improvement. Participants recommended joint or reciprocal exposure to the working environments of investigators and prosecutors.

One participant recommended:

“Relevant training for both [institutions].” (Prosecutor 1)

Another participant suggested that “both sides should be exposed to the other's working environment and field”. (Police Investigator 9)

A further response identified training in investigation, evidence collection and handling, case preparation and presentation, and the relationship between police and prosecutors as areas requiring improvement.

These findings suggest that participants perceived professional development as a mechanism for reducing misunderstandings about institutional responsibilities and improving cooperation.

Accessibility and Timely Engagement

The responses also highlighted accessibility as an important component of effective collaboration. One participant specifically stated that:

“the investigators and prosecutors need to make time to constantly engage.” (Police Investigator 2)

This finding is important because it demonstrates that participants did not necessarily view the problem as an absence of willingness to collaborate. Instead, organizational pressures and limited availability could prevent regular engagement.

The responses therefore point towards the need for structured opportunities for investigators and prosecutors to discuss cases, rather than relying entirely on informal contact when problems arise.

Institutional and Leadership Issues

Some participants raised concerns about leadership and institutional direction. A prosecutor's response referred to the importance of policy and leadership support, including implementation of prosecution-guided investigation.

The response indicated that leaders should have a clearer understanding of PGI and that resources should be made available to support implementation. The participant also referred to the need for training and exposure between police and prosecution personnel.

Another response identified leadership support and dedicated collaboration mechanisms among the factors necessary for effective cooperation.

These responses suggest that participants regarded collaboration as an institutional responsibility rather than something that should depend exclusively on individual relationships between investigators and prosecutors.

Summary of Qualitative Findings

The completed questionnaires demonstrate a considerable degree of convergence across participant responses. The strongest recurring issues were communication, consultation, workload, resource constraints, case delays, prosecution-guided investigation, training, trust, and professional relationships.

Importantly, the responses also demonstrate that the participants recognized both sides of the collaborative relationship. They did not simply describe the other institution as responsible for problems. Instead, several participants called for greater accessibility, mutual understanding, shared responsibility, teamwork, and regular consultation.

The findings is therefore summarized as follow:

Theme	Evidence from completed questionnaires
Communication	Need for clear communication channels, information sharing and timely feedback
Consultation	Need for regular engagement between investigators and prosecutors
Workload	Limited time and overloaded offices reduce opportunities for collaboration
Resources	Staffing, transportation and other operational resources affect case management
Case management	Postponements, lengthy trials, scheduling problems and delays affect case finalization
Prosecution-guided investigation	Early prosecutorial guidance was perceived as improving investigative focus
Trust and respect	Mutual trust, respect and shared understanding were identified as important
Training	Joint/relevant training and exposure to each other's working environments were recommended
Leadership	Institutional leadership and policy support were considered necessary
Collaboration mechanisms	Participants supported regular meetings and structured consultation

Interpretation of the Evidence

The findings should be understood as participants' experiences and perceptions, rather than objective measurements of criminal justice performance. Although participants associated effective collaboration with better case preparation and potentially faster case finalization, the study did not collect administrative data capable of independently demonstrating effects on conviction rates, acquittals, withdrawals, case-processing times, or public confidence.

For example, one participant perceived effective collaboration as contributing to “better outcomes” through improved communication, resource allocation and problem-solving. Another participant stated that collaboration could help ensure that cases are properly prepared and finalized. These statements are valuable evidence of participants' perceptions, but they should not be interpreted as empirical proof that collaboration causes higher conviction rates or increased public confidence.

DISCUSSION

This study examined the working relationship between Namibian Police investigators and prosecutors at the Okahandja Magistrate Court, focusing on factors influencing collaboration, challenges affecting cooperation, and opportunities for improving criminal justice outcomes. The findings indicate that effective collaboration is influenced by communication, organizational capacity, leadership, trust, and institutional support.

Communication emerged as a central challenge in the study. Participants repeatedly referred to inadequate consultation, limited information sharing and difficulties obtaining timely guidance. One participant stated that “lack of clear communication channels and information sharing can hinder collaboration,” while another emphasized that investigators and prosecutors need to “make time to constantly engage.” These accounts support the broader literature identifying communication and information sharing as fundamental components of effective interagency collaboration (Bryson et al., 2015; O’Leary & Vij, 2012). However, in the present study, these claims should be understood as participants’ experiences rather than as independently measured organizational performance indicators.

Resource shortages, including inadequate personnel, vehicles, infrastructure, and high workloads, also affected collaboration. These constraints limited opportunities for consultation and contributed to delays in investigations and case management, consistent with Nugent-Borakove et al. (2009). Participants regarded prosecution-guided investigation as an important mechanism for improving coordination. One participant explained that police officers should conduct investigations with prosecutorial guidance because this could help limit investigations to the specific requirements of a case and facilitate finalizations. Another participant recommended discussing cases with prosecutors before trial and obtaining additional guidance where necessary.

These findings are consistent with the study’s broader argument that early interaction between investigators and prosecutors may help identify evidential and procedural issues before cases reach court. The findings support Collaboration Theory and Systems Theory. Collaboration Theory highlights the importance of communication, trust, shared responsibility, and coordinated decision-making, while Systems Theory demonstrates how weaknesses in one part of the criminal justice system can affect other components.

CONCLUSIONS

This study assessed the working relationship between Namibian Police investigators and prosecutors at the Okahandja Magistrate Court, focusing on challenges, factors supporting collaboration, and strategies for improving cooperation. The findings show that effective collaboration is essential for quality investigations, sound prosecutorial decisions, efficient case management, and timely justice.

Although the relationship was generally viewed positively, challenges such as poor communication, delayed prosecutorial decisions, resource constraints, heavy workloads, and limited consultation affected cooperation and contributed to delays and case management inefficiencies. Effective collaboration can be strengthened by regular communication, prosecution-guided investigations, mutual trust, professional respect, clear roles, joint training, and structured consultation.

Practical Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Institutionalize structured communication mechanisms.** The Namibian Police Force and the Office of the Prosecutor-General should establish regular case consultation meetings to improve information sharing, facilitate early identification of evidential deficiencies, and strengthen case preparation before court proceedings.

2. **Expand prosecution-guided investigations.** Prosecutors should be actively involved during the early stages of complex criminal investigations to provide legal guidance, improve evidential sufficiency, and minimize procedural deficiencies before prosecution decisions are made.
3. **Strengthen joint professional development.** Regular interdisciplinary training should be introduced for investigators and prosecutors to improve knowledge of investigative procedures, evidential requirements, legislative developments, witness management, and courtroom practices. Such programs would also strengthen professional relationships and encourage a collaborative organizational culture.
4. **Improve institutional resources.** Additional investigators, prosecutors, operational vehicles, office infrastructure, and information management systems should be provided to reduce workloads and improve the efficiency of criminal investigations and prosecutions.
5. **Develop formal collaboration protocols.** Clear interagency guidelines should be developed to define consultation procedures, communication standards, case review processes, and institutional responsibilities. Standardized procedures would promote consistency, accountability, and more effective case management across the criminal justice system.
6. **Strengthen leadership and organizational support.** Senior management within the Namibian Police Force and the Office of the Prosecutor-General should actively promote collaborative practice by monitoring interagency cooperation, resolving operational challenges, and supporting initiatives that strengthen institutional partnerships.

Study Limitations

This study was conducted exclusively within the Okahandja Magisterial District and involved a purposive sample of police investigators and prosecutors directly engaged in criminal investigations and prosecutions. Consequently, the findings reflect the experiences of participants within a single jurisdiction and should not be generalized to all courts or criminal justice institutions in Namibia. Future studies involving multiple jurisdictions and larger participant groups would provide broader evidence regarding police–prosecutor collaboration across the country.

Recommendations for Future Research

Future research should examine collaboration between investigators and prosecutors across different magistrate courts and regions of Namibia to determine whether similar organizational challenges exist nationally. Comparative studies involving rural and urban jurisdictions would provide valuable insights into contextual differences affecting collaborative practice.

Further studies should also incorporate the perspectives of magistrates, defense practitioners, forensic scientists, court administrators, and correctional officials to develop a more comprehensive understanding of interagency collaboration within the criminal justice system. In addition, quantitative and mixed-methods research could examine the relationship between collaborative practices and measurable outcomes such as conviction rates, case processing times, prosecution success, and court backlog reduction.

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