



IMPACT OF COMMUNITY POLICING ON SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN KUBWA, BWARI AREA COUNCIL FCT-ABUJA

BY

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Abstract

The concept of National Security has been known to connote the preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as internal stability. However, it is the purpose of national security to find security solutions through community policing for the protection of lives and property, physical infrastructure, and key assets as well as hinder the movement of terrorists and their cells. It was against this background that this study adopted the Gap theory to investigate impact of community policing on security management in Kubwa, Bwari area council FCT-Abuja. This study decomposed community policing into interconnectedness between the Nigeria Law Enforcement Agencies with the host community and accommodation of private and informal security providers into the Nigeria Security architecture. This study employed an exploratory research design with reliance on publicly available archive documents. The study relies solely on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning community policing and security management. The literature was obtained through searches in the publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references in connection with national security, community policing, security architecture, and security management. In findings, the paper identified poor interconnectedness between the Nigeria Law Enforcement Agencies with the very community they set out to protect. The finding from the study submits that Nigeria's Security architecture is too unitary hence its inability to incorporate the private security providers, and other informal security actors in addressing insecurity. The study recommends that the Nigerian security agency's ratings and funding should be linked to the community they serve. The study also recommends that Nigeria's Security architecture should encourage decentralization of commands and control closer to the people by unbundling security from the exclusive list into the concurrent list, so as to properly situate security closer to the people and not the elite alone.

Keywords: Community Policing, Gap Theory, Security Architecture, Security Management

Introduction

The 21st century would be defined by security threats not constrained by borders, from climate change, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism to conflict to poverty, diseases and economic instability. Therefore the greatest test of leadership would be building partnerships and institutions for cooperation that can meet the challenge. In Africa and Nigeria more specifically, insecurity has led to an unprecedented rise in violence which has worsened the trends of crime against humanity as the dastardly acts are often targeted at a defenseless populations. The worrisome situation here in the wanton crime and criminality that has over taken the communities at all levels whether in urban centers or in rural areas in Nigeria.

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The idea of community policing is not new to Nigeria but has remained strange to many who see policing as the exclusive job of the federal police; the Nigeria Police Force, this perception has neglected all forms of cooperation and support they should have ordinarily given to aiding a better equipped security architecture and more effective policing in Nigeria. Community policing is the collaboration between the police and Community members to identify Security challenges in their Neighbourhoods or Communities and proffers workable solutions in a proactive manner. As against the Traditional Policing method, Community Policing offers a way for the Police and Community members to work together to resolve problems that exist in their communities.

This problem calls for increased innovation and need to leverage on technology to effectively police the spaces of the community and nation at large. Today crime has expanded in sophistication and reach, so much so that the world today recognizes international crime syndicate due to their efficiency in 'internationalization of crime' and state actors have had to confront belligerent criminal armed/rebel forces as major threats to global peace and security.

Terrorism and Insurgency other forms of criminality abound in Nigeria such as the gruesome activities of the Fulani herdsmen, Ritual killings/Murder, Kidnapping, Gang violence, Rape etc. call for urgent concern as they constitute gross impediments to the growth and development of the Nigerian Economy considering its role as the main hub of Economic activities in the West African sub region. Scholars have advanced several reasons for this state of affairs ranging from high level unemployment to acute poverty in the land, ill equipped law enforcement agencies, ineffective; the collapse of internal security architecture.

Presently Nigeria is grossly under policed. With a Population close over 200 million policed by the paltry sum of less than 400,000 policemen, we have an abysmally low ratio of over 1/500 Policemen. In between this figure is the number of Policemen attached to Government officials, Political leaders and Elite groups. This development thus threatens the policing devoted to the general populace. In most developed countries today the Police have found out that crime control tactics needs to be augmented with Community Policing strategies that prevent Crime and reduce the fear of Crime in the neighborhood. Fear of crime is a significant problem in itself. A highly visible Police presence will help reduce fear in the neighborhood.

The evolvement of Community policing could trigger complementarity between all law enforcement agencies, Community members, corporate Organisations, Civil Society and relevant intergovernmental agencies. This could also lead to accessibility of more resources available for crime prevention activities instead of being forced into 'an after the fact response to crime' that the public is perpetually exposed to, since community policing is a strategy of policing that focuses on developing relationships with community

members.. It is in view of this fact above that this work seeks to undertake a study on the impact of community policing on security management thus far in Kubwa-Bwari area council of the Federal capital territory, Abuja.

The choice of Kubwa-Bwari area council as study location could be seen from the proximal nature of Kubwa-Bwari to the Ushafa forest, gateway to Kaduna State which is extensively impacted by terrorism and banditry coupled with the upsurge in motorcyclist's operatives in Bwari, both of suspicious economic smokescreen activities and for conveyance of food and convenience into the Ushafa forest for criminal terror cell groups. The Kubwa-Bwari area council of the Federal capital territory, Abuja, is thus of security academic interest to interrogate how impact of community policing in security management of the axis.

This study is guided by two research questions:

- i. How does interconnectedness between Law Enforcement Agencies and host community affect security management Kubwa-Bwari Area Council FCT-Abuja?
- ii. To what extent does Nigeria security architecture influence security management Kubwa-Bwari Area Council FCT-Abuja?

The paper is structured into five sections. Following this introduction, section two is concerned with literature review. Section three discussed the methodology adopted for the study; section four discussed the findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Literature review

Conceptual Framework

Community Policing

The basic understanding surrounding community policing is that policing should be accessible. What is meant here is selected patrol officers are assigned permanently to small areas (beats). High visibility patrols are conducted, on foot patrols to interact with members of the public and Patrols are to provide public assurances (Oliver, 2011). Certain principles are identified with community policing; policing should be visible and accessible. Such that disposition of patrol officers are encouraged citizens to approach and seek assistance, policing should involve community consultation, cooperation and interdependency. This would mean that the police work in partnership to device and implement agreed solutions to problems, this may include volunteer schemes initiating neighborhood watch to augment police patrol activities.

Furthermore, community policing involves multi-agency collaboration and recognizing that no statutory or voluntary body can make any meaningful impact on social problems if it acts in isolation of other. Policing

is essentially proactive. Rather than simply reacting to incident of crime, anti-social behavior and other sources of public complaint, the Police adopts a systematic and integrated problem-solving approach with a view reducing and preventing such incidents, and finally, policing is accountable. All police personnel are accountable for their professional and personal standards and for their treatment of citizens (Johnson et al., 2017).

Interestingly, Community Policing demands for accountability to the host community for community policing to be seen effective. Such accountability hence accounted for the rating, promotion of security agencies and involving officers operating in a given community. Systems that help assure law enforcement agencies accountability include democratic elections, public reviews, internal reviews and processes for citizen reviews as law enforcement officers are expected to serve and protect individual citizens (Sands, 2023; Igwebuike et al., 2023).

Nigeria Security Architecture

The national security architectures entail administration, decision-making, oversight structures and institutions, as well as national policies, strategies and plans in the management of insecurity (Bearne et al., 2005). This study sees it as a security template warehouses involving security agencies, whose administration and oversight structures which transmits the resilience, co-ordination and response rate of a nation to insecurity management. The Nigeria Security architecture is said to be concentric and too unitary to respond to the complex need of a federating state like Nigeria (MaiBashira, 2022). The security architecture could also be seen to harbor less integrated and self independent federal agencies with no provision for fusion centres to encourage intel sharing and collaboration (Mungadi et al, 2022).

Pathetically, the Nigeria security architecture could be seen fraught with intelligence failure, which occurs when there exist a failure to process and analyse information correctly, a failure to disseminate and share information and a failure to act on intelligence (Stark, 2020). This apparently played out through blame trades and political statement during the 2022 Kuje jail break. While NCoS maintained it did not have any intelligence report prior to the jailbreak (Abubakar, 2022; Nigeria Correctional Service, 2022), assertions by the Department of State Service (DSS) insisted that NCoS had sufficient intelligence on plans by criminal elements to attack critical infrastructure (Ejiofor & Afunanya, 2022).

Interconnectedness between Law Enforcement Agencies and Host Community

The interconnectedness between law enforcement officer and their agencies with host communities can only be achieved when both officers and their agencies are accountable to their host communities, when their ratings, reviews, assessments, and funding is linked with host community. Accountability increases interconnectedness and it describes the high public expectation placed upon law enforcement agencies either

formal and informal security apparatus, and individual officers to act in a responsible and legal manner while upholding the law and controlling crime. This expectation is portends that all citizens will be treated equally under the law. It actually refers to interactions between law enforcement officials and the public. Systems that help assure police accountability include democratic elections, public reviews, internal reviews and processes for citizen reviews as law enforcement officers are expected to serve and protect individual citizens (Sands, 2023).

Interconnectedness is further deepened, when there is a nexus for interaction between policing agencies and the youths; such that youth are provided with various developmental opportunities, which encourage participation and drives positive interaction with those reinforcing conventional behavior, acknowledging young person's effort and promote positive bonding, which elicits a feeling of attachment and commitment to those who provide meaningful recognition, and establish a clear standards for behavior through which youth become motivated to adopt the healthy behaviors (Communities That Care, 2023). Community policing is meant to dull the highhandedness of the Nigeria law enforcement agencies in relating with communities further compounded the existing disconnect. Such that there exist mutual distrust between the Nigeria law enforcement agencies and the corporate world, the rural communities due to one bitter experience or the other. Such distrust further constricted the public space for mutual interface between law enforcement agencies and the community (Igwebuike et al., 2023).

Empirical Review

Law Enforcement Agencies Interconnectedness and Host Community

Ejiogu (2019) examined the nexus between community policing and the engagement of pastoral terrorism in West Africa considering the narratives, limitations, and strengths of adopting community policing. The study adopted a thematic approach. Findings from the study showed that there exist the concept of disconnected communities with weakened social policing tendency and this made these communities to be susceptible to attacks. Study therefore projected the adoption of the concept of "connected communities" in order to enable a multilayered and all-involving intelligence community policing shield in individual communities under siege of the pastoralists, kidnapping and other forms of crimes and criminalities. This is a continental studies done on West Africa thus there is the need for State specific study to be done in Kubwa of FCT-Abuja.

Olusegun (2016) investigated the joint efforts of the police and the communities in South-West, Nigeria in tackling the worrisome rates of crime. The study underpinned by broken window theory adopted empirical approach though related textbooks, journals, and other relevant publications. Findings from the study showed that the police force alone given their observable inadequacies could not successfully tackle crimes in the

society without adequate supports of the members of the community. The study emphasised that there exist a battered relationship between the Nigeria Police and their host communities as the people sees the police as one of the major threats to community security due to their extortion tendency slanged the “*wetin u bring*” which has caused gap between the Police and other stakeholders. The study only captured police community relationship in internal security while this present study goes further to consider relationship between the police, the corporate bodies, other security agencies and the Vigilante for a robust of Police-community relationship and Internal security in Nasarawa State

Obidiegwu and Elekwa (2019) employed purposive sampling technique to assess the level of collaboration between vigilante security group and the Nigerian police in arresting insecurity in Abia State. The study engaged 648 Town Union Executives and 78 Policemen in 10 Local Government Areas with registered vigilante units, while data collected were analyzed using mean and t-test statistics. Results from the study showed that there exists collaboration between the vigilante services and the Nigerian police force to minimize crime to a high extent. Study thus emphasised that the government should enhance more collaborative platforms between the vigilante and police to enable them embark on joint deliberations, decision making and actions as such will promote harmony, teamwork, efficiency and effectiveness between the vigilante and the police for greater crime control and protection of lives and properties. The study was done using Abia State data hence there is the need for similar but extensive study to be done using Abuja FCT data.

Nwogwugwu and Odedina (2018) investigated the impact of effective policing state policing as an alternate to arrest the rising security challenges in Nigeria. The study engaged qualitative method with reliance on secondary data sourced from journals, relevant textbooks, newspapers, magazines, and materials downloaded from internet. Findings from the study revealed that the local vigilante groups scatter all over communities has made valuable inroad in curtailing some of the security challenges including terrorist insurgency because of their resilience and knowledge of the terrain. The study submitted that the country’s traditional security agencies singularly or jointly have failed to effectively combat the many security challenges that Nigeria faces. This study relates to Nigeria as a whole hence there exist the need for similar but state specific study to be carried out in Kubwa Abuja FCT.

Onwuegbusi (2017) employed cross-sectional survey design to examine public perception of the citizens of Anambra State on engagements of the vigilante groups in the State. The study engaged structured questionnaire, focused group discussion and in-depth interview to extract data, which was analyzed with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Findings of the study showed that residents of the State found the security services rendered by the Vigilante supportive and timely in ensuring a crime free

society in spite of a number of shortcomings and limitations of the vigilante. Study submitted that consistent and regular training of the vigilante members in the State would be the right path to go particularly if well interfaced with the formal security system. This study was carried out in Anambra solely on Vigilante Services while the present studies looks beyond into other Police-community relationship in asserting internal security in Nasarawa State.

Ogbozor (2016) analysed the informal security sector in Nigeria with a focus on the relationship that exist between the formal security sectors specifically the Nigeria Police and the Vigilante Group of Nigeria across Plateau, Kaduna and Abuja due to the selected States history of ethno religion and political-related violence. The study deployed semi structured interviews of open-ended questions among vigilantes, community members, local leaders, private security guards, workers from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and formal security officials as sources of data collection between January and February 2015. Findings revealed that 37.9% of respondents affirmed that relationship between formal and informal security actors remains very cordial, 6.3% respondents had no idea while 55.8% of respondents believed all is not well with the relationship existing between the Nigeria Police and the Vigilante Service. The study concluded that the relationship between the police and vigilante groups needs to be redefined with a memorandum of understanding that spells out the terms of collaboration or partnerships. There is a need to for present study to carry out a similar but broader look using more constructs with and beyond the vigilante group in Nasarawa State.

Gumel (2017) thematically studied critical issues facing small business enterprises in Nigeria. The study engaged Lampadarious success factors framework. Findings of the study showed that high rate of crime and criminalities negatively impacted on small business owners and business owners will leave most crimes unreported due to the rigours of going to Police stations and the attending expenses in investigation process which further deny business owners time and resources for other engagement. Study submitted that there is the need for an improved relationship in handling investigation without belabouring the complainants as such armchair investigation processes further scare business owners from the Police thereby weakening the Police-business community relationship chain.

Isenring et al. (2016) investigated the unwillingness of the business sectors to crime to the police in Australia. The study employed statistical tools of cross-tabulations and association coefficients such as the Chi-squared, the Phi coefficient, for data analysis on extracted data. Findings from the study submitted that that the reasons mostly linked to non-reporting of customer theft were that business owners believed that reporting would not have achieved anything. The same was also found in cases of attempted burglary, which were primarily not often reported because business proprietors usually thought that the police were not interested in resolving

the matter. Study emphasised that trust in the police and the perception of the reactions of the police after reporting the crime play an important role in the decision to report a crime or not. However, a developed country-specific study there is the need for similar study to test the relationship between business owners in Nasarawa State with the Police.

Eze et al. (2019) engaged socio-ecological theory to examine impact of crime reporting as a panacea to crime control in Gwagwalada Area Council Abuja. A descriptive study that employed interview and 220 administered questionnaires to mostly enterprising or business owners to elicit data. Findings from the study showed that there is low crime reportage in Gwagwalada Area Council, study also related that People are more likely to report a crime if they have a positive attitude about the police. However, many crimes are not reported because the victims believe that the police will not care, that the Police will take bribes and will not act against the perpetrators, or possible they will even be mocked by the perpetrator after coming back from the police station. There is the need for similar study to be done using Nasarawa State data with more variables as embarked upon by the present study

Nigeria Security Architecture and Security Management

Ikeanyibe et al (2020) investigated collaboration among key formal security agencies and how such has affected the counter-insurgency war against Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The study underpinned by Weiss theory engaged thematic study design on related literature and extant publications. Findings of the study revealed that there exists weak institutional capacity to ensure and supervise collaboration among security agencies in Nigeria and this greatly account for why the counter-insurgency collaboration has not yielded the expected results. Study submitted that except the culture of interdependence and connectivity in reaction to a shared problem is imbibed by security agencies, then perpetrators of crimes and criminalities will keep escaping the arms of law. The study was country specific hence the need for a similar but state specific study of Kubwa-Abuja Fct which this study considers

Solomon and Ajasa (2011) deployed an exploratory research design to assess how Nigeria's multi-agency security sector under profiled the nation's national security. The study engaged an exploratory research on extant publications, government reports, journals and related literature not excluding online searches. Findings from the study showed that Police-Army clashes is prominent followed by Police-Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps clashes while the existing tension between Police-Federal Road Safety Corps, Police-Correctional Services, and Police-Nigeria Immigration Service cannot be ignored. Study therefore emphasized that rivalries due to overlapping of roles is baseless if organisations involved would see their mandates as mutually inclusive.

Afuzie (2022) interrogated the nexus between the Nigeria Security Architecture and recurrent waves of jailbreak by terror cell groups. This study adopted Krejcie and Morgan (1970) scientific sampling technique and ordinary Least squares Regression on 384 data elicited through purposively administered questionnaire leveraging on snowballing for residents around correctional facilities also publicly available archive documents of secondary data were consulted. Results that emanated from the study showed that the incessant jailbreak is a reflection of the poor interagency cooperation among Nigeria security agencies as the security architecture amplifies almost stand-alone agency's functionality while efforts of systemic integration foot dragged over the decades. The study engaged incessant jailbreak to show the weakness of Nigeria Security architecture to harness security agencies collaboration while this study focused on security architecture and local policing in Kubwa Fct Abuja.

Akinsanya (2022) employed participatory theory of Network Analysis to thematically examine the yawning gap between federal security agencies and the private security industries vis a viz the non-responsiveness of the national security architecture. The study engaged qualitative research design on publicly available archive documents. Findings from study showed that intelligence sharing between private security industry and government security agencies could positively influences public safety which could reinforces the Global safe school projects and slow down the widening illiteracy trajectories. The study opine that Nigeria security architecture is more of Unitary approach than federal approach all formal security agencies have their command and control centralised hence hampering rate of responsiveness to crime. The study was a country specific study while Kubwa Abuja is a State specific study.

Theoretical Review

The Gap Theory

This theory as propounded by George J. Thomson (Thomson, 2006) argues that there is a widening gap between the police and the community in too many areas. People, corporate entities, trade association including youths who had been mistreated by the Police withdraw from the police and are never eager to help the police and live in resentment of the Police. Until Police officers are taught to care for the people, the 'gap' increases. The deviants and crooks in the society benefit from the 'widening gap' between the police and the people. However, the better the police treat the people, the safer they feel and the more the 'gap' closes. As the 'gap' closes, it closes on the criminals and the deviant in the community.

Police-community relationship training will therefore promote trust and confidence building between the police and the people in preventing crime in the community. According to (Thompson, 2006), the quality of contact with the people by the police affects the way the people in turn perceive the police. Therefore, to improve on the quality of contacts with the public, the police should be thought about the '90-10 principle' of the community. Thompson, (2006) stated that in the worst areas of the cities, 90 percent of all the people in those communities are good, hard-working, decent folks trying to make a living with dignity. Ten percent are the murderers, drug dealers, kidnappers and other criminal elements that need to be taken off the streets.

However, the problem with police work is that too often, 90 percent of police contacts are with those 10 percent who are the deviant and crook. So this distorts police view of the community. The police easily become cynical and tend to 'go to war' against those communities rather than taking on a protective role. This according to (Thompson, 2006) explains why the police are most hated where they are most needed. People mistreated do not give intelligence to those who mistreated them. So adequate community policing training will help close the gap of mistrust and lack of confidence between the police and the people and make police more humane in carrying out their services within the community.

Methodology

This study adopts thematic research design to analyse influence of community policing on security management in Kubwa, Bwari Area Council Fct-Abuja. The study relies solely on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning the national security, international security and economic foundation factors. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references on community security, insecurity management.

Discussion of Findings

The review of literature showed that there exist poor interconnectedness between the Nigeria Law Enforcement Agencies with the very community they set out to protect. The rationale for this finding could be seen in existing hostilities and inter agencies rivalries among formal agencies and the low reportage of crime incidence by citizen, business owners as such efforts are seen as efforts in futility. The finding is in tandem with the findings in the previous works of Ejiogu (2019); Olusegun (2016); Nwogwugwu and

Odedina (2018); Onwuegbusi (2017); Ogbozor (2016) Gumel (2017); Isenring et al. (2016) Eze et al. (2019); Obidiegwu and Elekwa (2019)

The result gotten from empirical literature showcase the inability of the Nigeria Security architecture to incorporate the private security providers, and other informal security actors into her security architecture. The logic behind this findings could be seen with the skewed composition of State centric agencies (the Military, the Police) who portends forces on Nigeria Security architecture devoid of the presence of human centered security agencies (NSCDC, NCoS), total absence of the informal security agencies (Private security agencies, the vigilante) and other stakeholders addressing security from food, health, environmental. This finding is consistent with the findings in the previous work of Ikeanyibe et al (2020); Solomon and Ajasa (2011); Afuzie (2022); Akinsanya (2022), whose earlier works showed that Nigeria security architecture is too unitary in nature to address the security demands of federating units in Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study has demonstrated that there exist poor interconnectedness between host communities and law enforcement agencies thus constraining the space for community policing to be effective as tension exist between formal security agencies informal security agencies and host communities. Study also conclude that the concentric nature of Nigeria security architecture has limited the human security expressiveness of the security architecture as commands and controls of security agencies are overcentralised away from the community

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made;

- i. The study recommends that the Nigeria security agencies rating and funding should be linked to the community they are to serve, as a strategy to improving professionalism, community accountability and earning public trust.
- ii. That the Nigeria Security architecture should encourage decentralization of commands and control of formal security agencies by unbundling security away from the exclusive list unto concurrent list in a bid to bring security closer to the people and be human centric as against State centric.

Compliance with ethical standards

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