

American Journal of Public Policy and Administration (AJPPA)



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Article history

Submitted 06.12.2023 Revised Version Received 18.12.2023 Accepted 19.12.2023

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of the study was to conduct an analysis of the effectiveness of community policing in selected areas of Senga Hill District of Northern Province of Zambia which has no police station, police post and community police post.

Materials and Methods: Mixed research method was used.

Findings: Community policing not effective in the study area because it lacked police station, police post and community police post.

Implications to Theory, Practice and Policy: The recommendations will contribute to the theory, practice and policy direction of community policing.

Keywords: *Community Crime Prevention Association (CCPA) Community Crime Prevention Unit (CCPU), Community Policing (CP), Government Policing Agencies (GPAs), Zambia Police Service (ZPS)*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Objective of the Study

- To define community policing
- To examine effectiveness of community policing in preventing crime
- To examine effectiveness of community policing in the reduction of crime
- To find out ways of enhancing community policing

Policing in Zambia

The following is the historical background and evolution of policing in Zambia:

The Policing Strategies: 1891-1963

The development of the Zambian Police Force dates back to 1891 when British government granted permission to the British South African Company (BSAC) to expand its rule over the territory North of the Zambezi River which is today Zambia. However, in 1911, the two territories, North Eastern Rhodesia and North Western Rhodesia were amalgamated to form Northern Rhodesia.

In 1912, the two semi-military police forces namely the Barotse Native Police (BNP), which was established in 1902 and the North-Eastern Rhodesia formed in the year 1900 by the BSAC was amalgamated into Northern Rhodesia Police Force by proclamation No. 17 of 1912, dated, 18th December (Jefferies, 1952).

During this era, the functions of the police were as follows:

- To guard the property of the government;
- To act as escorts to caravans;
- To carry messages from the administrative officials to native chiefs;
- To effect any arrests of natives that may be required;
- To guard native prisons.

In August, 1913, the division of the force into a 'Military Company' and a 'Town and District' Police continued after the administration of the territory was taken over by the British Crown in 1924. The 1924 Police Ordinances created the civil police with a mandate to prevent and detect crime and to apprehend offenders. In 1932, the two branches were separated and became respectively the 'Northern Rhodesia Police' and the 'Northern Rhodesia Police'. A year later, the military police became the 'Northern Rhodesia Regiment (Jefferies, 1952).

The functions and area of jurisdiction of the civil police unit were redefined according to the Northern Rhodesia Police Ordinance of 1924 as follows:

- To save life,
- To protect property,
- To prevent and detect crime,
- To preserve peace, and
- To apprehend offenders.

Amidst these changes aimed at de-linking the police from the military, this did not help much as the civil police still remained a branch of the military force and continued to perform its duties

side by side with the military branch, such that in 1926, both the civil and military branches were deployed at Serenje to deal with the unrest caused by activities of Mr. Tom Nyirenda Mwanaleza nick-named “son of God”, who had set himself as a witch-finder. He was responsible for 192 murders in Northern Rhodesia and the Congo.

In Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), law enforcement and order maintenance was however, dictated by the events that were unfolding in the country during the late 1930s and 1940s, such as the nationalist movement demanding for black majority and miners’ strikes on the Copperbelt Province which mainly resulted into serious riots. Realizing the serious nature of the threat and in order to ensure public order, the colonial government responded by creating the Mobile Unit in 1949 based at Bwana Mkubwa near Ndola to counter insurgent using the police force. Initially, officers were drawn from all the districts to quell riots and numerous strike actions on the Copperbelt by the African miners who were demanding black majority rule as they were discontented with the conditions of service which they considered to be poor. In the year 1952, the unit started producing its own officers who were trained by white instructors from Britain.

However, in 1963, its headquarters was moved to kamfinsa near Kitwe. The idea was to locate a strong force for the regulation of civil order in the centre of Copperbelt province which became notorious for its politically inspired upheavals (Musonda, 2002). An example of such an operation where mobile unit was involved includes the violently dispersing of the Tonga people in the Gwembe Valley in Southern Province in 1958 where eight (8) people were shot dead during the protest by villagers against the government decision to evict them from their ancestral land in order to give way to the construction of the Kariba Dam. This led to the general dislike and mistrust of the police among the native people.

Another example where the police was being used to frustrate the enemy of the government is that of the deposing of Senior Chief Nsokolo by then in 1953 by the name of Mr. Mbeni Mayembe of the Mambwe people of Mbala for being disobedient to the colonial masters. He was deposed from the chieftaincy by using the police who removed him from the village. He was banished and taken to Chalele on the shores of Chambeshi River in Abercon by then in Zambia.

The Post-Independence Policing Strategies: 1964 -1972

When Zambia gained its independence in 1964, the United National Independence Party (UNIP) formed government resulting into the Northern Rhodesia Police Force changing its name to Zambia Police Force through an Act of Parliament, Chapter 133 of the Laws of Zambia which is now Chapter 107 of the Laws of Zambia. The change of administration of Zambia Police Force came with expectations that the police would be reorganized and re-oriented from the way it operated during colonial era into a force committed to serving the people, although little changed. Nkaka (2012) observes that the new government was quick to replace European police managers with Africans with little or no management skills. Unfortunately, the new government was not in a hurry to transform the military function of the police force.

The new government decided to continue with a centrally controlled police force which was highly militarized and politicized as they were made accountable to the Republican President rather than the law.

The Policing Strategies in the Second Republic: 1972 -1991

The colonial government introduced and maintained a militarized police force to sustain colonial rule. However, it would appear that the new Zambian government maintained a militarized and politicized Police Service for political expedience. In 1972, President Kenneth David Kaunda, the then President of Zambia declared Zambia a one party state, which was not popular among the majority of citizens as the change from multiparty to single party political system led to the politicization of all state institutions including the Police.

This meant that under the single party constitution which was amended, all government organs and institutions became organs of the ruling party, and were expected to toll the ruling party line. It also resulted into the police indirectly being transformed into a tool of suppression against the opposition. Literature reveals that the politicization of the police was exhibited by the appointment of Police Inspector General Mr. Fabian Chela to the political ministerial position of Minister of Water Affairs. Later, Mr. Henry Mtonga who succeeded Mr. Hebert Mapili as Inspector General of Police was appointed as Member of the Central Committee (MCC) of UNIP, which was the highest policy making organ of the party and its government. Further, during a political education seminar for senior police officers in 1989, held in Lusaka, police commanders pledged total and unflinching support and loyalty to President Kaunda, the party and its government, a pledge which demonstrated that the Police was going to practice partisan policing.

The period between 1973 and 1991 saw policing crime in Zambia become thoroughly politicized. The vigilante policing scheme was introduced in 1986 by the government after amendment of the Zambia police Act No. 23 of 1985. This strategy was operated in the way like the current Community Crime Prevention Association (CCPA), although it was organized on party lines, as the party was considered as supreme over all government institutions including the police.

The vigilante scheme was introduced by the government in order to respond to the crime problem the country faced. Another reason that was advanced for the introduction of the vigilante scheme is that the police force did not have sufficient numbers to deal with the crime problem in the country all by them. However, some critics observed that the vigilante scheme was a deliberate ploy by the ruling party to weaken the police so that it was easily manipulated as it is argued that, although the Zambia Police (Amendment) Act No 23 of 1985 mandated the scheme to be under the responsibility of the Inspector General of Police, this was not the case in practice. For instance, the appointment of the suitable persons to the vigilante scheme by the Inspector General was done under the recommendation by the ward security committees in the compounds which later supervised members of the vigilante scheme.

The amended Zambia Police Act gave vigilantes power of arrest but they were required to hand over the arrested suspects to the police, which in some instances vigilantes took it upon themselves to mete out punishment on apprehended suspected offenders. These injustices by the vigilantes were mostly done at UNIP offices where the police could not intervene. The vigilantes' usurpation of powers of police officers in dealing with suspected offenders brought about reactions from both the police and members of the general public who demanded for the abolition of the scheme.

Mwansa (2012) observed that such behaviour by the vigilantes was due to non payment of money to them while on duty as an appreciation as even when one either got injured or died on duty, they were not compensated. Towards the end of the UNIP regime, there was lawlessness by members of the general public, a situation which saw riots in Lusaka and Copperbelt Provinces who

demanded the removal of the UNIP government from power citing shortage of mealie meal and other essential commodities in the country. Crime was rising and the police, especially those performing general duties did not have sufficient manpower to effectively fight crime on their own.

Furthermore, due to lack of manpower, both the Mobile and Para-Military Police Units were now utilized as reservoirs of manpower to assist the police general duties instead of doing their normal duties of guarding government vital installations and patrolling along the borders.

The Para-Military Police Unit was established in 1967 with the first intake on 4th May, 1967 at Bwana Mkubwa Depot in Ndola and graduated on 7th December, 1967. The Paramilitary Company became specialized in border security management, striking force, and Presidential security detail. The inclusion of the two units to do general duties meant that the police became militarized, resulting the police becoming detached from the community as reactive policing became rife and efficient way of policing the community in the country.

The Policing Strategies in a Multi-Party Era: 1991-1994

Between 1991 and 1994, during the first years of the rule by the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy, there was an increase in police abuse and growing discontent on police operations by the citizens; the government introduced the Zambia Police Reform Programme, which saw transformation of police from a military to a more civil one. To lead the process of transformation, Francis Ndhlovu was appointed Inspector General of Police.

In 1995, Mr. Ndhlovu launched the Police Reform Programme and formulated a Mission Statement in which the police pledged to respect individual's freedoms and rights and to facilitate democratic governance through community involvement. The police also adopted the community policing model as a method of safeguarding communities and neighbourhoods. The emphasis was close partnership between the police and the public aimed at identifying policing problems with a view to finding solutions together. The five-year Strategic Development Plan of 1995-2000 was unveiled in order to provide checks on police abuses. Eventually, the old military policing was eliminated by removing the word 'force' and replacing it with 'service' to read Zambia Police Service.

Therefore, the police force needed to develop an approach to policing that address the underlying cause of crime. But the police could not do it alone, hence the communities were needed to be involved in policing themselves. This move included a concern with the participation of citizens in matters that affected their daily lives, consultation with the citizens, establishing processes and structures of accountability, and working towards greater service delivery.

Before the introduction of this concept, there was an outcry from members of the public especially in need to increase police presence in communities because police officers, apart from those on patrols, were only found at police stations. Due to this scenario, increased levels of crime in these areas were linked to lack of police posts and community involvement in securing communities. There were also reports of increased pick-pocketing activities in city centres, theft from motor vehicles only to mention but a few.

When you look at the number of police officers and the vast areas they have to cover to maintain the security of the country, it would be definitely be deduced that the police are overstretched. That is the reason why the police consider the community as the major stakeholder in crime prevention.

“A call goes to members of the public who need the police at their door step to come up with structures that are befitting a police structure. When requesting for the presence of a police post, members of the public should also be ready to play a role in supplementing efforts in curbing crime in their respective areas”.

Even in areas where there are no police posts, officers through community policing patrol these areas. Community neighbourhood watch has also helped tremendously in crime prevention. Mr. Shanampota has this message to members of the public,” I would like to urge members of the public to continue coming to the aid of police officers and they should also provide them with good office accommodation in places where there are no police posts. I am further calling on them to assist the police in identifying criminals who are living with their communities”.

The implementation of community policing in Zambia as provided for in the Zambia Police (Amendment) Act No.14 of 1999 is as follows:

- That any community may establish in a residential, commercial or industrial area a crime prevention and control association to compliment the Police in the maintenance of law and order;
- That an association established shall be registered under the Societies Act and a copy of the certificate shall be lodged with the Officer-In-Charge of the Police station in the area where the association is established;
- That membership shall be voluntary and open to any person who is normally resident or operates in the area or community where an association is established; and
- That every association shall perform its functions subject to the direction and control of the officer-In-Charge.

On request, the Inspector General of the Zambia Police may provide equipment and other requisites to the association necessary for the prevention and control of crime. The member of the Community Crime Prevention Association may arrest any person without warrant who commits cognizable offence in the presence of the member and also when the member reasonably suspects any person of having committed an offence. When a member arrests without warrant, a suspect shall at the earliest opportunity be handed over to a police officer or the nearest police station or post.

However, on the death or injury on duty, the member shall be treated as a member was police reserve officer as provided for in section 12 of the Police Reserve Act. Community policing in Zambia also involves the establishment of community police posts. Community Police Posts are run by both the police and the citizens. The citizens provide a building and/or a vehicle to be used by the police and members of the community crime prevention association within the residence, commercial or industrial areas with a view to curb and prevent crime.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

As this thesis analyzed the effectiveness of community policing in Zambia, literature on policing in general and community policing in Zambia, although scanty was reviewed. Literature of Silwamba,C (2016), "Assessing crime privations by the Zambia Police Service: A case study of Monze District". Respondents in this study responded that Community Policing was the strongest method used to combat crime.

The other research work to this study in Zambia, is that of Musamba, "Evaluation of the impact of Community Policing strategy in Zambia: A case study of Lusaka Urban (Musamba,2010). The study evaluated the impact of the Community Policing strategy in Zambia on crime and public attitude to crime.

Related literature is that of Punza's obligatory essay or legal research on "Community Policing as a factor in crime prevention and Law Enforcement" (1994) in which Punza failed to evaluate the level and effectiveness of public support in Community Policing.

Nkaka's study on restructuring and the police human rights record: A case study of Lusaka and Kafue Districts (2012). The study by Nkaka focused on police reforms in relation to the reduction of police abuses.

These pieces of literature do not discuss the effectiveness of the implementation of Community Policing in Zambia. However, the nearest research to my study in Zambia is Musonda's work published in the Book, "Challenges of implementation of Community Policing in Zambia" (2019), which sought to investigate the challenges and problems face by the police and citizen partnership in the implementation of Community Policing within Kabwe and Kitwe Districts in Zambia. The research argued that the key to successful implementation of Community policing is a strong police-citizen partnership. Musonda's study on Community Policing is the most recent and one which is the most valuable to this study.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

A mixed research method i.e secondary and primary methods of data collection were used in this study. Secondary data was collected by someone other than the user and is usually already published, although not in all cases. The sources of secondary data included; books, journals, reports, internet and newspapers. Meanwhile, primary data is the type of information that is obtained directly from first hand sources by means of surveys, observations or experimentation. It is data that has not been previously published and is derived from a new or original research and collected at the source (Burford.2011). In this research, primary data was collected using data collection tools such as self-administered unstructured questions and questionnaires with structured questions guided by the researcher.

4.0 FINDINGS

In this study, respondents who included the police officers, citizens and ccpu volunteers. The findings demonstrated that efforts made by the Zambia Police Service to reform the police service through introduction of Community Policing, police-community collaboration remained inadequate. It also demonstrated that the successful implementations of Community Policing, priorities are defined by the community as the community plays an important part in determining and implementing locally and acceptable solution to its problems.

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings

Community Policing is not effective in the study area because of the absence of police presence on regular basis due non availability of the police station, police post and community police post.

This development led to failure by the police in preventing and reducing crime, the fact that was admitted by all the stakeholders in terms of respondents.

Conclusion

The major flaws in the successful effective Community Policing by the Zambia Police Service which is at Mbala District situated about 100km away from Senga Hill Central Business District relate to poor response by the police whenever called upon by the citizens and Community Crime Prevention Unit volunteers; lack of transport for patrols and ferrying of suspects by the police; and lack of physical presence of police. It is evident that the Zambia Police Service has a long way in effectively implementing Community Policing in Senga Hill District, which was any area of study.

Recommendation

- Need to open a community police post in Chela Ward of the district
- Need to deploy police officers at Nsokolo, mambwe and mpande areas
- The Business community to fund activities of members of Community Crime Prevention Unit
- Zambia Police Service to develop and undertake viable marketing strategies by encapsulating all major stakeholders to promote understanding and involvement in the shifting flaws on policing.

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