

**COMMUNITY POLICING AS A CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
FOR ENHANCED SECURITY IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
(FCT), ABUJA, NIGERIA**

BY

MAKEN-PHILIP, Elizabeth
Department of Public Administration
Institute of Administration
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria
Email: elizamaken@gmail.com Tel: +234 8034632804.

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Abstract

The intractable problem of insecurity in Nigeria in recent years has prompted policymakers to consider a paradigm shift of community involvement and collaboration of citizens in policing and general security matters. The draft legislation in the National Assembly or the Bill seeks to repeal the Nigeria Police Act Cap P19 Laws of the Federation and enact the Nigeria Police Act 2020, which provides for community participatory policing in the prevention, detection, and resolution of crimes and criminality. Extant literature on community policing has identified typologies and contexts. However in all contexts, trust remains fundamental to effective community policing. In this study, we use Lewicki's trust/distrust matrix (2014) to show the dynamics of the collaboration given the top-down approach of community policing and dwindling citizens' trust in the police in Nigeria. We therefore formulate hypotheses on citizens expectations, citizens trust in the police and effective community policing.

The study adopted a case study design with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, as the case. The study population of the territory is 3,564,126 (NBS, 2019). A sample size of 384 was drawn using Krejcie and Morgan sampling formula and a stratified sampling procedure in order to ensure representation of the various strata of the population comprising of the civil society, public servants, security personnel, the business community, religious leaders, community organisations, youth organisations and other non-governmental organisations. Data was collected through an online survey instrument of questionnaire administered to the respondents. The descriptive statistical method and correlation analysis was used to analyse the data. The findings of the study revealed amongst others a high expectation but low trust in the police. We concluded that citizens trust can be enhanced incrementally through an innovative approach of public sector co-creation initiative on community policing.

Keywords: Community policing, citizen engagement, trust/distrust matrix, co-creation initiative.