

Effect of Intelligence Gathering on Crime Control in Machakos County, Kenya

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Abstract

The study objective was to determine the effect of intelligence gathering on crime control in Machakos. This research adopted a descriptive case study research designs. Target population was 230 individuals who comprised of individuals participating directly or indirectly in crime control. Krejcie and Morgan sampling method was applied in coming up with the sample size which was 197. This research employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches of analyzing and interpreting data. Statistical findings show that, the use of intelligence gathering, was the most effective crime control practices, second in the category is information sharing, third in the category with community policing and the last effective measure indicated were dispute resolution. Gathering timely information can assist security agents in in Machakos County their efforts to know in advance security threats and develop an immediate proactive strategy. Police should be given the proper level of intelligent gathering training that to allow them to adapt to the new demands imposed by the increasing levels of sophisticated crimes in the society. Police must constantly review the development of their pro-activeness in mitigating the changing patterns of crime and the expectations of the public. The police should uphold Human rights and integrity while discharging their mandate so as to reverse weaning public confidence and hence create a rapport with the public and improve partnership rather than being adversarial.

Keywords: *Intelligence Gathering, Crime Control, Machakos County*

1.0 Introduction

According to Smith (2008), at the heart of every pro-active organization be it public or private is a reliable source of intelligence. Intelligence is information collected from various sources on the activities of known or suspected active criminals (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2005). The spy agent in Kenya is described as one that has transformed to meet the aspirations of Kenyans (Boinnet, 2009). Intelligence gathering is one of the vital arms of the administration of justice used in securing a nation for the attainment of suitable environment for social, political and economic progress (The Kenya National Assembly,

2008). Intelligence gathering is a mission that involves gathering timely information that can assist security agents in their efforts to know in advance not only about the security threats but also about opportunities that may arise to advance national interest (Johnson, 2013).

1.1 Problem Statement

Kenya is experiencing a challenge with the rise in the crime levels. Peri-urban and rural communities have not been spared either (Murithi & Wanjohi, 2014). Yatta is faced by a number of security threats such as robbery, theft, murder. Its closeness to Thika town makes its prone to these crimes as criminals tend to easily hide in Yatta after committing crime in Nairobi Thika and their environs. Kitur Sarguta Lebishoy (2013) carried out a research on paradigm shift in Kenyas security intelligence service whose study was based on the gap of the intelligence literature in Kenya. He concluded that more research needs to be done so as to increase the scope of literature available on intelligence gathering and its role in crime control.

Wilson Boinnett a former Director General NSIS on National Intelligence paradigm found out that there is a need to update work done on the role of Kenya intelligence system in social, economic and political stability of a nation. He also found out that there was a need to replace the old crude and inhuman method of extorting information from and about suspects with an intelligence service based on democratic principles and respect for humanity. Traditionally, the role of maintaining law and order and controlling crime has been left with the security agents mainly the police whom the citizen had developed so much fear towards mainly due to their unkind approach towards the citizens. Chumba, (2012) asserts that the security agents must improve their working relationship with the public they serve so as to effectively solve the security concerns that affect them. Christopher (2017) carried out a research in Nairobi County found out that there is need to partner with the public in every aspect of decision making including coming up with alternatives. He carried out his research in Busia County where he observed that leadership in Busia County demonstrated weak decision making process, inadequate communication and insufficient gathering of information and the solutions that best suit the problems they face. Christopher then suggested that other studies be carried out on the influence of community driven approach on issues affecting people such as crime control.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The study objective was to determine the effect of intelligence gathering on crime control in Machakos County, Kenya.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The study was informed by the realist theory, which describes that the world is a system of competing self-interested nations or states and that security studies play a key role in promoting peaceful coexistence (Baldwin, 1993). Realism believes that individuals have a probability of coming into conflicts whereby these conflicts encountered by human beings can be resolved generally through application of superior power, and thus realists are of the assumption that countries seeking to maximize their control. The realist sees lot of evil actions in the lives of human naturally and often finds recurrent patterns of evil deeds such as crime in humanity. Global security in the year 1976 was described as aspects with a straight

bearing on a nation's structure and the members' sovereignty with firm accentuations on the control, threat and usage of force (Carnesale, 2016).

In the year 2012, Policy Strategy and the State Security of the US realized that threats imposed through anarchy in the global system impacts on the strategy of security (Stolberg, 2012) and security therefore is comprehended in the threat and insecurity language to the nation's peaceful existence. Realist further argues that the organizations may offer laws to safeguard security though they don't eliminate the insecurity sources and hence it further undertakes that some threat exists in the global system. Realist therefore has defined security by using the language of nation interests and force (Stolberg 2012). Realist theory describes that the world is a system of competing self-interested nations or states and that security studies play a key role in promoting peaceful coexistence (Baldwin, 1993).

Realism believes that individuals have a probability of coming into conflicts and the conflicts can be resolved generally through application of superior power, and therefore realists undertake that countries or states seek to maximize their power. The realist sees lot of evil actions in the lives of human naturally and often finds recurrent patterns of evil deeds such as crime in humanity. Global security in year 1976 described security to be aspects with a straight comportment on the nation's structure and the members' sovereignty with firm accentuations on the control, threat and use of force (Carnesale, 1976). During the year 2012, the state security of US and the Strategy policy noted, threats that anarchy poses in the global system impacts on the strategy of security (Stolberg, 2012) and thus, security is comprehended in the threat and security language to peaceful existence of a nation. Realist further argues that the institutions might offer laws to safeguard security though they don't eliminate the insecurity sources and hence it then undertakes that some threat exists in the global system. Realist therefore has defined security by using the nation interests and force language (Stolberg 2012).

Thus, there has been domination of realism on the security study to a bigger extent and that can be proved on its dominance over security language researches specifically regarding nations as referent objects, anarchy and using force as major characteristics of the global system. The realist ideas can be applied in attempts of finding out best means that citizens can be involved in finding lasting solutions to security threats without applying the traditional methods of applying force by the security agents. It helps understand how well citizens can work closely with the security personnel to find lasting solutions to the security challenges that surround them such as crime.

This study embarked on realist approach in that the theory clearly defines the world to be a system of contending self-interests result to conflict over power, limited resources or even access to Government resources that fuel crime rates as those disadvantaged fight for their own space and means of survival.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Intelligence Gathering and Crime Control

Intelligence alludes to the gathered information in or out of US which entails threats towards our country, its interests, property, people, proliferation, development or deployment of weapons for destruction of masses as well as any more concern bearing on US homeland or national security. Intelligence may give awareness not present in any other place which gives warnings on the probable opportunities and the threats. The Intelligence Community of the US happens to be an association of executive branch organizations and agencies which

operate together and separately towards conducting intelligence undertakings impart for conducting foreign relationships and protecting the security of the nation of US.

In the United States Government, there exists the United States Intelligence Community that operates together and separately to carry out intelligence undertakings to aid state security and foreign policy. Organizations that are members of intelligence community entail the agencies of intelligence, military and civilian intelligence and offices of analysis in federal executive departments. The work of the Intelligence Community is supervised by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that is directed by Director of National Intelligence who then reports to the US President. The members of the department of intelligence gather and generate domestic and foreign intelligence, carry out some military planning and carry out surveillance. The Intelligence Community was established by Executive Order 12333, signed on December 4, 1981, by US President Ronald Reagan. The Washington post reported in 2010 that there were 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private firms in 10,000 locations in US which were operating on intelligence, security and counterterrorism and the entire intelligence community entails 854,000 individuals that hold top-secret clearances.

Research done in 2008 indicated that private workers are approximately 29 per cent of the work force in the US intelligence community. Executive order 12333 indicted the Intelligence community with the objectives amongst them being information gathering required by the State Security Council, the State Secretary as well as other executive branch officials for performing their responsibilities and duties on security, producing and disseminating intelligence, collecting information that concern and the operations of protecting against, intelligence operations directed counter to the U.S and also intelligence operations as the President may direct from now and then. Intelligence community provides morning top secret intelligence brief each day to the President of the United States. The Presidential Policy Directive 19 signed by President Barack Obama in October 2012 gave the overall responsibility of Intelligence work to the United States Director of National Intelligence. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 established the office of the Director of National intelligence as an independent agency to assist the Director of National Intelligence. The intelligence cycle is a process of collecting information and developing it into intelligence for use by the Intelligence Community customers.

Nigeria tends to be the most popular nation of Africa with a demographic of above 158 million. With those big numbers of individuals, challenges concerning security cannot be avoided and as such there exists a proper reply from enforcement of the law to make sure of property and lives' security. Intelligence and surveillance gathering are a number of approaches which the authorities of law implementation employ in tackling challenges to do with security. This aids in gathering information sufficient towards preventing crime which isn't committed yet, intervene in one that is almost being committed or investigate a crime that has been committed. The Nigerian intelligence community was an instrumental part of the former authoritarian regime. The Nigeria's intelligence community was radically restructured in 1986 into three smaller more specialized agencies that led to National Intelligence Agency in Nigeria. The National Intelligence Agency in Nigerian government is tasked with overseeing intelligence and counterintelligence operations. The National Intelligence Agency in Nigeria was formed in the effort to fulfill one of the promises made in his first national address as President in June 1986 by Ibrahim Babangida on dissolving the National Security Organization and restructuring Nigeria's security serviced into three separate entities under the office of the Co-coordinator of National Security. The staff of

Nation Intelligence Agency in Nigeria are regarded to be highly skilled, intelligent and very discreet in their operations.

According to Ian Smith (2018), in each pro-active organization be it private or public is a dependable intelligence source. Intelligence gathering is an important strategy of controlling crime. Intelligence refers to information that is capable of being understood, that has been evaluated in context to its source and reliability. In Kenya intelligence gathering involves planning requirement and direction collection, analysis and processing, production and dissemination of information. The way in which this information is made is through evaluation, a process of considering information with regard to its context through its source and reliability. In Kenya, security agents mainly apply Human Intelligence (HUMINT) that is; collection of information from human sources. Although publicly available information is helpful, the best way to find out about perpetrators of crime is to obtain secret intelligence about their activities and movements. There exists a big number of examples in the course of history of religious, military, and the leaders of community aggressively task persons with exercises of gathering information and then grounding actions or decisions on the gathered information this way.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency formed in 1947, National Intelligence is the knowledge and foreknowledge of the world around us. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) was established by the enactment of the National Intelligence Security Act (1998). The NIS identifies threats counter to the nation's security, collecting and analyzing intelligence on the threats and consequently advising the Government through relevant intelligence reports. According to Boinnet (2019) the spy agency in Kenya is described as one that appears to have transformed to meet the aspirations of Kenyans. This information gathered mainly on crime and perpetrators of crime through the residents of a specific area is critically analyzed to give direction on how crime will be controlled in a given area. Information on crime pattern is gathered as well that describes the patterns of crime to help make informed decisions and actions to control crime. The Kenya National Assembly (2018) on the National Security Intelligence Act described intelligence gathering as one of the vital arms of the administration of justice used in securing the nation for the attainment of suitable environment for social, political and economic progress. Lock Johnson (2013) described intelligence gathering as a mission that involves gathering timely information that can assist security agents in their efforts to know in advance not only about the security threats but also about opportunities that may arise to advance the national interest.

3.0 Methodology

This research adopted a descriptive case study research designs so as to discover and learn new ideas and insights as well as due to its primary nature. Target population was 230 individuals who comprised of individuals participating directly or indirectly in crime control. These were the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, the Police, Community Policing members as well as opinion leaders in Yatta Sub-county. Krejcie and Morgan sampling method was applied in coming up with the sample size which was 197. The research employed primary and secondary sources of data where primary data was gathered from participants whereas secondary data was gathered through relevant documents such as Government reports, policy documents, community policing manuals as well as civil society publications as well as UN documents. This research employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches of analyzing and interpreting data. Quantitative technique was employed to analyze numerical data where

the researcher upon receiving the questionnaire, then coding and entering that data into computer for producing figures whereas qualitative approach engaged the use of the study and gathering a number of observations, personal experience and also empirical materials. The qualitative data gathered from questions that were of open-ended form were classified based on the objectives of the research and reporting in themes together with quantitative presentations.

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Descriptive Analysis

4.1.1 Intelligence Gathering

Participants were asked to indicate whether they had ever participated in intelligence gathering process. Results are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Participation in Intelligence Gathering

Participation	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	99	63.5
No	57	36.5
Total	156	100.0

Source: Research data, (2020)

From the study findings, majority of the 99 (63.5%) participants indicated that they were involved in intelligence gathering process whereas 36.5% was of the contrary opinion. This implies considerable numbers of participants were involved in intelligence gathering process. Table 2 shows results on role played by the participants in intelligence gathering process.

Table 2: Role played by the participants in intelligence gathering process

Roles	Frequency	Percentage
Informer	29	18.6
User	44	28.2
Analyst	26	16.7
Never participated	57	36.5
Total	156	100.0

Source: Research data, (2020)

From the study results, 44 (28.2%) respondents indicated that they played as the role of a user, 18.6% of the respondents indicated that they played the role of an informer while 16.7% of the respondents indicated as analyst, however 36.5% of the respondents indicated that they never participated in the exercise. This implies that participant's playing various roles in intelligence gathering process were fairly involved in this study.

4.1.2 Officer Overseeing Intelligence Gathering

Results show that intelligence gathering in most the cases were supervised by the director of criminal investigations; others indicated the officer commanding station, the area assistant chief and security committee.

4.1.3 Safety Terms of Identity Protection

Results show that majority of the participants indicated that they felt safe in sharing intelligent information, adding that the police hand laid structures to ensure that intelligent

information was protected. However, some of the respondents indicated that they were not comfortable in sharing intelligent information for the fear of being attacked. One other participant narrated *“that these cartels have their own ways of fighting back, you can’t report them and expect to live here in peace, beside they have resources to control and protect their operations”*. drawing from the results its evident that locals had to choose between hard choices and in most cases giving way for vices to prevail in society due to lack of courage to speak up.

4.1.4 Whether Intelligence Is Acted Upon

The study sought to establish whether, police acted on intelligence information sheared by the participants. From this attestation, majority indicated that police acted on information only for a short period of time, in direct words from one of the participants, *“police never maintained consistency in fight on vices identified and brought to their attention, once the crackdown is over, nothing else happens after that. It demoralizes us to see evils such as unregulated betting shops, illegal brewing, selling of alcohol in illegal hours still creep back.; we should not be reminding the police their duty to make follow ups.* This study rules out that although the general public shared vital information, the police were failing greatly, in continually acting on the information as well as remaining vigilant to see that the repulsed vices did not creep and show up again.

4.1.5 Challenges Encountered in Intelligence Gathering

The study sought to determine some of the challenges encountered in intelligence gathering, results show that individuals (from the society) were unwilling to share vital information with the authorities; the public in most cases were unwilling to write statements, cost incurred in some cases such as the transportation was also too high. In direct words from one of the participants, *“mimi sijasoma hizuri, nitasimama bele ya koti nkushuhudia nini, heri niepuke maswala ya koti na mapema, mimi sitaki kesi ije kunilemea”*“In some cases, lack of cooperation or voluntary withdrawal by witnesses on some cases also impeded intelligence gathering process, in most occasions witnesses were bribed or threatened to withdraw from cases and thus occasioning a big drawback on intelligence gathered. Results also show that most of the suspects arranged in courts were freed for failure by the prosecution to avail strong information supporting cases presented. According to Ian Smith (2018), in each pro-active organization be it private or public is a dependable intelligence source. Intelligence gathering is an important strategy of controlling crime. Intelligence refers to information that is capable of being understood, that has been evaluated in context to its source and reliability.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

Statistical findings show that, the use of intelligence gathering (Mean=1.46 Std dev=0.75), was the most effective crime control practices, second in the category is information sharing (Mean=1.56 Std dev=0.14), third in the category with community policing (mean=1.75 std dev=0.80) and the last effective measure indicated were dispute resolution (Mean=1.91 Std dev= 0.80). Results show that, implementation of policing strategies and practices was no smooth, for instance local residents of Yatta Sub-county in Machakos county feared giving out information to police for fear of being attacked by the offensive groups such as cartels in illegal brews, police also faced a drawback in gathering relevant information on capital offenses, in some cases, locals indirectly interfered with case order investigations. In direct words from the participant’s, *“intelligence gathering is a big challenge due to*

uncooperativeness with locals and that considerable number of locals were yet to embrace community policing”.

5.0 Conclusion

The study concluded that gathering timely information can assist security agents in Machakos County in their efforts to know in advance security threats and develop an immediate proactive strategy.

6.0 Recommendations

Police should be given the proper level of intelligent gathering training that to allow them to adapt to the new demands imposed by the increasing levels of sophisticated crimes in the society. Police must constantly review the development of their pro-activeness in mitigating the changing patterns of crime and the expectations of the public. The police should uphold Human rights and integrity while discharging their mandate so as to reverse weaning public confidence and hence create a rapport with the public and improve partnership rather than being adversarial.

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