



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

KENYA ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BI-MONTHLY TALK SERIES FORUM

THEME:

Plans by the National Police Service to Ensure Structured Engagement with Community Groups on Security Issues and the Role of Residents Associations towards Promoting Safety and Security in Kenya

Community partnerships with the police are absolutely critical for effective safety and security management across the nation. This is not just about contact and sharing information with the police but rather working together through meaningful efforts in addressing problems in our communities. This is because members of the public are a major stakeholder in ensuring safety and security in our country. In this regard, the National Police Service has taken deliberate steps to partner with the communities we serve in an effort to enhance security for the socio-economic development of our nation. This is in line with the requirements of Article 244 (e) of the Kenya Constitution that mandates *the police to foster and promote relationships with the broader society in carrying out its mandate.*

The Service has adopted the following measures in ensuring structured engagement with the communities and organized groups like the Kenya Alliance of Residents Association on security issues:

a. Development of Policies and Guidelines

The National Police Service has developed and implemented Service policies and guidelines that promote Police -community engagement. These include NPS Community Policing Guidelines; NPS Standard Operating Procedures on Sexual and Gender Based Violence; and Public Order Management, among others, to enlighten both the police and members of the public on their responsibilities and obligations in promoting safety and security.

b. Reorganization of the Service

The National Police Service has undergone reorganisation to harmonize the Command Structure for effective and efficient Service delivery. We now have a harmonized command structure with each Service having distinct functions and roles. The Kenya Police Service is now responsible for public safety and security whereas the Administration Police Service is responsible for border security and protection of critical national infrastructure. The DCI is

responsible for investigation of serious criminal cases. This has removed the hitherto existing confusion, duplication of resources and unhealthy competition that existed when we had a three-pronged command structure which did not work well. Members of the public are now clear on who is responsible for their security and they can hold him/her to account.

c. Integration with the Communities

Integrating Police officers with the communities they serve is another bold step by the Service to enhance the interaction between the public and police officers. The abolition of the free institutional housing for police officers which was unveiled recently, is meant to firstly find a sustainable solution to the housing problem in the Service but most importantly, to bring out officers from the enclosed police lines to mingle with the public whom they serve. The long term effect of this is to have more understanding among the police and the community members. This will lead to creation of relationships that will end up in building trust which very important in security. In the long run, the integration will lead to change of attitude among the public and the police which in turn will affect their behaviour.

d. Establishment of plat forms to engage the Public

The Service has opened its doors to the public by establishing various forums through which it engages the public. These include National Police Service Website, Twitter Account, the Anonymous Reporting and Information System (ARIS) which anchored at the IAU, Toll Free emergency lines (911, 112 and 999). This enhances response in case of distress, promotes sharing of information and ease of reporting complaints.

e. Mainstreaming Community Policing

The NPS has entrenched Community Policing as a Strategy in promoting Police-Community partnerships in fighting insecurity and crime within our communities. This is geared towards our vision of attaining People Centred Policing where the security needs of the people are at the core of all Police activities. The Service has developed Community Policing Guidelines to streamline the implementation of this strategy throughout the country.

f. Awareness Creation

The Service has also embarked in creating awareness among the public on its roles and how our work benefit the public. This has been done through participation in Trade Fairs and Agricultural Shows in various parts of our country and the Police Open Week which we held in December 2018. We have also participated in sponsoring programmes that promote security and

peaceful co-existence e.g. the 'National Schools and Colleges Music Festivals 2018' whose theme was Counter Violent Extremism.

The Role of Resident Associations in Promoting Safety and Security

Communities and Resident Associations can effectively work with the Police towards promoting safety and security in the country. This is guided by our mission of providing professional and people centred police service through community partnerships and upholding the rule of law for a safe and secure society.

Resident Associations can be involved in enhancing safety and security in the following ways:

- a. Taking all necessary measures to know your neighbour well- who they are, what they do, where they frequent etc.
- b. Taking steps to establish and concretize working relationships between the police, the larger community and Resident Associations. This can be realized through joint community forums, sporting activities and other social activities that bring people together.
- c. Abiding by the law in all that you do and sensitizing the community on need to observe rule of the land
- d. Understanding and embracing Community Policing as an effective strategy of enhancing safety and security.
- e. Giving factual, relevant and up-to-date information through the provided communication channels like personal contacts of police officers, media platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook; Emails; Letters, personal visits and through our Toll Free numbers like 911, 112 and 999.
- f. Assisting in identifying outstanding performance of police officers and recommending them for recognition.
- g. Monitoring area security and lobbying for safer and secure neighbourhoods through reporting any suspicions; advocating for proper neighbourhood lighting and clear pathways; and abhorring disinformation especially on matters of security.

- h. Participating in identifying and addressing specific social issues associated with criminal activities in your area. This can be done through joint problem-solving action planning.
- i. Partnership between Resident Associations and the Police to be nurtured at the local Police Station level because it is the centre of all police operations and service delivery. However, nothing prevents Resident Associations from contacting higher Commands should need arise.

Conclusion

We have adopted an open door policy to work with like-minded stakeholders to enhance security in our country. This is because security requires a whole-of-society approach in order to succeed. We need to synergize and create working partnerships to create a peaceful and secure environment for national economic development.

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