

Implementing a community policing strategy in crime prevention: A case study of Lomanyaneng, Mahikeng, and Mmabatho police stations

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Abstract

Community policing is a style of policing that ensures better, responsive, efficient, and effective service delivery to the community (Yero, Othman, Samah, D'Silva, & Sulaiman, 2012, p. 53). The 1996 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa advocates for community policing as a style of policing that improves cooperation between the police and the community in crime combating. The National Development Plan: Vision 2030 also provides for the need to facilitate closer cooperation and partnerships between the police and the community. This article examines the implementation of a community policing strategy in crime prevention in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, particularly at three police stations, namely Mahikeng, Lomanyaneng, and Mmabatho police stations. The aim of this study was to establish the current role of community policing in crime prevention in the selected area. This study also investigated the challenges and successes of the implementation of community policing strategies in crime prevention. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the community should be involved in crime prevention operations during the planning and operational stages; however, this should be done without compromising the covert nature of policing. Furthermore, there should be a sound relationship between the police and the local community as this will enable the police and the community to trust each other and to form a strong coalition against crime in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

Keywords: Community policing; crime prevention; community policing forum; community policing partnership; Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

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