

Partnership Building in Public Policing: Communities' Perceptions of the Role of Community Policing Forums in Crime Prevention in Mthatha, Eastern Cape

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Abstract

The study on which this paper is based was conducted in Fortgale and Southernwood near Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. As an excerpt from this larger study, this paper seeks to explain respondents' perceptions of the role of Community Policing Forums in this region. The focus of the study was to discover if the Community Policing Forum initiative in Fortgale and Southernwood was perceived as an effective tool for crime prevention among community members. The paper shed light on the role of the community as members of the Community Policing Forum and the role they play during meetings. The study identified the challenges and most significant obstacles that cause a barrier between the public and the police in terms of community policing and crime prevention in the study area. A quantitative study approach was adopted which included a pre-experimental design (one short case study), and non-probability (judgmental sampling). The efficacy of this policing-community structure was quite apparent, and it was evident from the findings that the community in both areas was well versed in the role and functions of community policing.

Keywords: Community members, Crime prevention, Community policing, Police.

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