



# PUTTING STATISTICS AT THE CENTRE OF COMMUNITY POLICING

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The UPF has launched Community Policing strategy as a principal method of policing to fight crime, and carry out law enforcement. Community policing has to be, merely, the business of the Department of Community Affairs, and C.L.Os, but the core of policing, and, therefore the business of Command, at regional, district/division/station/post levels. Community Policing is a proactive, as opposed to the traditional reactive, approach to policing in which the Police builds partnerships with other government departments (particularly, the local government), NGOs, and the community, generally, with the objectives of detecting crimes and criminals (real and potential), and addressing the roots causes of crime, as well as the fear of crime. In fact, as is commonly said, community policing is what good cops always do.

The basis for community policing in Uganda is both Legal and doctrinal.

### a) Legal

The Constitution enjoins us under article 212(d) to cooperate with the public, other security organs and the population generally in the performance of our functions. It is also the duty of the citizen under article 17(f) of the Constitution to co-operate with lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order.

Implementing Community Policing therefore, is obeying a Constitutional command. It is also grounded in the strategic thinking and planning of the police since the UPF corporate objective is to provide an enlightened and motivated police force that is efficient and accountable to the people. We can not be efficient, professional and accountable to the people if we can not forge purposeful and mutual alliances with them to fight crime through community policing.

### b) Doctrinal

World over the role of the Police has continued to change from being reactive to pro-active policing. The police are increasingly using a system that induces communities to become partners in all security

matters. Members of the public are now largely responsible for assisting the police to deliver quality services to the communities they serve. This is achieved through Community Policing.

The concept of community policing is now considered as second generation policing. The new paradigm in police work requires the integration of traditional police duties and functions into life and activities of communities. The purpose of community policing is to encourage Public Private Partnership in the fight against crime. Community policing emphasizes building partnerships between police and community members. It has two core ideas.

- Community partnerships
- Problem solving

The main objective of this strategy is to reduce crime in the country by 20% by the end of the year. The specific objectives are:

- a) To mainstream Community Policing as the principal method of policing to fight crime, and carry out law enforcement.
- b) To Customize the Community Policing Model to the situation of Uganda by taking advantage of the grassroots-based LC system and linking it to the Police Post.
- c) To provide improved quality of police services by ensuring that the various police departments work in close partnership with each other through planned, timely, effective communication and coordination systems with the ultimate goal of preventing crime.
- d) To identify crimes and profile crimes that are prevalent in any given area e.g. land related conflicts, domestic/gender violence.
- e) To identify and profile real and potential criminals or criminal groups.
- f) To identify threats to vulnerable groups to crime e.g. children women, business people, bodabodas, IDP returnees etc.
- g) To ensure improved collection methods, collation, analysis and dissemination of crime intelligence to operational officers in a timely and coordinated manner.
- h) To audit police performance especially patrol groups

- i) To enhance quick police response to incidents of crime, ensure effective coordination and cooperation with the public/stakeholders and promote good customer care.
- j) To ensure that the budgeting process of the police reflects and includes community policing as a priority area of funding.
- k) To effectively review cases that are under investigations e.g. by the use of case conferencing method.

To implement this strategy, a community policing week nation wide has been launched and Unit commanders are required to make monthly reports to the IGP. Unit Commanders therefore need to have information and statistics in order to help them implement this programme and also to send monthly reports they need to adopt a statistical approach. This is because statistics provide a basis for good policy analysis, formulation decision making and implementation. They help identify best courses of action and managing service delivery. Good statistics will also help Unit Commanders to manage, monitor, and evaluate implementation of this strategy effectively and efficiently.

## **2.0 How do we use Statistics in Community Policing?**

We should start with a question, “What statistics do we need?”

We need statistics on:

- ❖ Crime incidents
- ❖ Number of cases reported, detected and investigated
- ❖ Number of people involved in crime as offenders and victims and their age, sex, etc
- ❖ Black spots (For accidents and for crime)
- ❖ Peaceful areas ( to get lessons why those areas are peaceful )
- ❖ Number of properties e.g. for property marking
- ❖ Number of people ( population ) in any given area
- ❖ Problem areas ( civil conflict)
- ❖ Performance of cases taken to court (how many succeed and how many fail and why)
- ❖ Crime prevention awareness programs e.g. media
- ❖ Number of stakeholders e.g. government depts., civic organizations, schools, religious organizations, business groups etc
- ❖ Number of police officers in any given area/community

### **3.0 Where do we get these Statistics?**

- ❖ Annual Crime Reports/ statistics
- ❖ Police units e.g. regions, stations, police posts
- ❖ Department of research and planning should generate statistics
- ❖ National Bureau of statistics' national, regional and other surveys
- ❖ Academic institutions surveys
- ❖ Other organizations' surveys and reports, (e.g., the Uganda Human Rights Commission's annual reports can tell us our state of human rights violation, the IGGs integrity surveys can tell us how corrupt we are, etc.)
- ❖ Government ministries and departments
- ❖ Etc

### **4.0 How Can Statistics help Community Policing Implementation?**

4.1 Statistics can help give us a picture of the crime situation in an area.

We can be able to know the predominant crimes in a particular area, at what time they are committed, by which category of people, etc (the what, when, where, by who and how)

4.2 Statistics can direct community policing-led operations

After finding out the five Ws, we can then direct police action, either in forms of investigation, visibility/patrols, placing of CCTV cameras etc.

4.3 Statistics direct police's proactive action.

After knowing the problem areas and predominant crimes, police can design appropriate preventive action.

4.4 Statistics as a aid in planning:

National Statistics such as the population census helps us plan our activities better by knowing say, the total population of the country, the police/public population ration, etc

4.5 Statistics can help us in budgeting e.g. partners need to know how much resources we need.

4.6 Statistics as a comparative aid.

By use of statistics, you can compare countries, regions, districts and localities on how they are fairing in dealing with particular crimes. During the community policing week, we need

to compare and see which areas need our priority interventions  
e.g. zones

4.7 Statistics as an aid to direct intelligence.

When many cases of drug trafficking have a connection to a certain neighboring country, they intelligence can be directed to that side of our border.

4.8 Statistics helps police community sensitization efforts

By graphically showing the number of false calls made to police 999 system a day vis avis genuine ones, you drive your point home better and the community can understand your problem better and can assist in fighting it. We need to know when and where to conduct crime prevention awareness programs.

4.9 Statistics can help measure police performance on dealing with crime and safety.

Statistics helps us show our efforts, our performance and can help reduce fear of crime. For example, if police can show how many hardcore criminals have been arrested and convicted, the public can feel secure.

4.10 Statistics can assist in Crime Pattern analysis

4.11 Statistics helps us to set targets on crime reduction and on different other aspects of policing.

Statistics helps us set targets, eg. "to reduce burglaries from the current 1130 cases to 500 per year in Mayuge district"

4.12 Statistics help as in future to reflect and see the past (crime) trends and whether we are progressing in reducing it.

4.13 Statistics helps future research efforts.

4.14 Statistics reflects the level of sophistication and organization of the police. Many researchers and the media require statistics from the police but quite often than not, we can not provide it.

A Police force which cannot show statistical representation of its activities cannot be taken serious.

4.15 Statistics helps us quantify effect and impact of whatever we do.

4.16 Statistics helps us ward away public criticism.

By showing figures, we can prove to the public that we are not sleeping but working.

## **5.0 Conclusion.**

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, you cannot underestimate the importance of statistics. In all our action, especially community policing approach, we should always be guided by statistical patterns/trends to design action. For community policing to be fully implemented, we need to adopt and cascade statistics in its implementation. Never should we ever just imagine or estimate things without statistical guide. If you do not have statistics, someone else does and therefore, after you make your un-backed wild claims; someone will come up with figures and disprove you. It can be a sad situation ended. However, use of statistics calls for some efforts, such as knowledge of computers and statistical computer packages. We also need to share information. Gone are the days when a specific department needs information and another refuses to provide it. For community policing to be successful, we need realistic, accurate, timely statistics and the willingness to share the information.

Thank You!  
For God and my Country.