COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ITS EFFECT ON SECURITY AGENDA SETTING IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

The world, specifically developing nations such as Kenya are experiencing increased crime rate. Kenya specifically has experienced a surge in crime rate since 2014. Today, due to the dynamic and diverse nature of crime trends security agencies are engaging local communities through various strategies in security agenda setting. There is growing empirical studies on public participation, however, the link on how the framework affect community participation in security agenda setting in Kenya has not been adequately addressed. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine the effects of community participation on security agenda setting in Westland Sub-County, Nairobi County. It was premised on three key theories, namely agenda setting theory, systems' approach and stakeholders approach. The study used descriptive research design to collect primary data from the sub-county security team. The researcher used interview guides and semi-structured questionnaires to collect qualitative and quantitative data from a sample size of 49 respondents (1 SSIC members, 2 ACCs, 1 OCS, 5 chiefs, 7 assistant chiefs, 11 Nyumba Kumi clusters, 5 peace committees, and 18 village elders) selected within the scope area. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution tables, calculating rates and tabulation, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and content analysis approach for quantitative and qualitative data, respectively.The findings show that security agents majorly use information sharing to engage citizens in security agenda setting, especially by holding public meetings. Regarding intelligence gathering, the findings show that citizens share intelligence information more with security agents, making it easier to maintain peace within the scope area. Also, it was found that security agents hardly share security-related or intelligence information with members of the public due to confidentiality. The inferential analysis shows a positive correlation between dependent and independent variables.

Key Words: Participation Strategies, Intelligence Gathering and Security Agenda Setting

INTRODUCTION

Major challenge facing Kenyans today is the increased rate of crime. From the years 2014 - 2018 the number and type of crimes reported in police stations has been increasing gradually and steadily (KNBS, 2019). It can be argued that the traditional strategies of security management and crime prevention by security agencies that involve surveillance, investigation and use of

force are not sufficient in security management (Jackson, 2015) in the current dynamic and evolving society, this calls for dynamic and society centered approaches to security management such as community participation in security agenda setting to be adapted.

Active participation of communities in security agenda setting benefits law enforcement agencies understand and develop clear objectives that receive support and positive response from communities hence increased public trust between them and members of the public. It helps public officials and citizens to learn by doing hence, more information is shared and learned in problem solving and service delivery efforts. Intelligence gathered with the help of citizens forms a basis for decision making by law enforcement agencies. Therefore, community participation in security agenda setting has the potential to provide security officer's with crucial intelligence information that is critical in building of crime trends, threat assessment and identifying vulnerabilities that can be targeted for disruption. Both the citizen and security agencies share responsibility on the appropriate action to be taken (Roberts, 2015). Community policing or community participation in security agenda setting is adopted in different countries at global, national, regional and local levels.

Globally all states are gearing towards a proactive strategies of mitigating security threats as opposed to reactive strategies hence community participation becomes critical in crime prevention and disruption of security threats (Thurman & McGarrell, 2015). Friedman & Cannon (2007) conducted a study in the United States to show how community participation helps to foster homeland security in all the states. According to these scholars, "Effective law enforcement is intended to utilize problem-solving techniques in order to pro-actively combat crime and delinquency" (Friedman & Cannon, 2007, p.10). This can only be achieved if law enforcers forge partnerships external entities, such as local businesses, community members, and other institutions that may have interest in fighting against crime. Friedman & Cannon (2007) found that engaging the public in security-agenda setting helps law enforcers to track and apprehend criminals and crime suspects because of the transparency and mutual relationship between citizens and security agents.

In the African context, Albrecht & Kyed (2015) conducted a study in Mozambique and Sierra Leone to determine how community policing has helped to restore sanity in the two countries. To effectively control crime, Albrecht & Kyed (2015) argues that local communities should be mobilized and liaise with security agencies in crime prevention and resolving social disorder. According to this study, it is only through community participation that law enforcement agencies can gather intelligent information and use it to neutralize criminal plans before they are executed. This shows that community participation and involvement in security agenda setting should be prioritized. These findings are further affirmed by Ikuteyijo & Rotimi (2012), who conducted a study in Nigeria and found that community participation in security agenda setting is

not only critical in detecting, prevention and reporting of criminal activities, but also in developing better strategies to manage security in the country.

In East African context, Dang (2019) conducted a study in Tanzania to determine how the government uses community participation to counter and prevent violent extremism. Given the country's proximity to Somalia and Kenya, where criminal activities of al-Shabaab and other gangs have dominated. According to Dang (2019), the focal point of Tanzania's approach to counter and prevent violent extremism community policing. The security enforcement agencies engage communities during security-agenda setting to empower or motivate them to report any suspicious activities within their neighborhoods to the law enforcers. However, police officers experience various challenges in engaging the public to fight against crime because of lack of mutual trust. According to Dang (2019), the local communities are concerned about police involvement in extrajudicial disappearances and killing of crime suspects while in police custody, making it difficult to counter or prevent violent extremism (Dang, 2019). In another study, Godffrey (2012) found out that community policing is an effective strategy of conflict management and prevention of crime in Uganda. According to this study, community participation in security-agenda setting helps to prevent different crimes in Uganda, such as rape, robbery and murder (Godfrey, 2012).

In Kenyan context, the government uses Nyumba Kumi as an approach for involving local citizens in decision making on security issues and establishing sustainable partnership between communities and security agents (National police service, 2019). Nyumba Kumi concept is based on "Ujamaa" socialism policy founded on social connectedness and epitomized in the saying "I am because we are and because we are so I am." (Ndono, Muthama & Muigua, 2019). In the Tanzania setting the Nyumba Kumi chairperson is responsible for daily monitoring of interactions and activities of members of his/her cluster, visitors, and responsible for local security (Ndono, Muthama & Muigua, 2019).

The Nyumba Kumi initiative aims at bringing people into clusters to curb crime and insecurity in the country. Under the concept every citizen is committed to know household within ones neighborhood (Otiso & Kaguta, 2016). The concept seeks to improve security intelligence gathering and collaboration between security agencies and local communities by ensuring any threat to security at any given village is detected and prevented early enough (Otiso & Kaguta, 2016).

This initiative promotes engagement of local communities in security management as local security agencies partners with local communities in tackling issues of insecurity. According to the commonwealth human rights initiative (2016), this resonates well with the principles of public participation in agenda setting as communities perception of security agencies changes to that of viewing security agencies as allies in peace keeping and security management rather

than as instruments of oppression hence more intelligence sharing , prevention and solving of crime.

Statement of the problem

Crime levels have increased in the country; the number of security threats both to the state and individuals' has increased. The government has been making advancement in combating crime through recruitment of more officers, better training, latest weapons and use of technology, and so have criminal elements. It can be argued that the changing face of criminal activities that threaten security coupled with inadequate equipment, understaffing, corruption and sometimes non-cooperation by the public (Ikuteyijo & Rotimi, 2012) necessitate the need to involve communities in setting the security agenda.

Community policing or public participation in security agenda-setting is anchored on the premise that criminals live amongst locals and are known by some community members. The concept of community involvement in setting the security agenda has achieved considerable result in security management. This is because community members play a significant role in fighting against any form of crime by reporting any suspicious activities to the law enforcers (GOK, 2005).

There is growing empirical studies on public participation, moreover, many studies have been conducted on community policing to determine the correlation between public participation in security agenda setting and crime rate in Kenya. However the link between public participation and security agenda setting has not been adequately studied, leaving a knowledge gap that needs be filled. This gap was filled by identifying effects of community participation on security agenda setting in Nairobi City County.

Objectives of the study
1. To assess the effect of participation strategies employed on security agenda setting.
2. To explore the effect of intelligence gathering on security agenda setting.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical framework

Agenda Setting Theory
Agenda setting theory can be traced to the works of Walter Lippmann in the 1920s when he pointed out his concerns on the part that the mass media plays in influencing a particular point of view to the public mind. Subsequently, McCombs and Shaw (1972) through their research on the capacity of mass media to influence voters' opinion in the US presidential election of 1968

contributed to the growth of the theory significantly. The research was be anchored on agenda setting theory, although the theory is prominently applied in communication studies its research and application scope extended to other fields dealing with public issues. The theory is relevant to this study as most security issues usually gain prominence when highlighted by the media (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). These media stations are followed by many residence of the county of Nairobi. Agenda setting theory tries to explain the relationship between issues that the mass media gives attention to and their audiences, reaction of the audiences, or characteristics of such issues (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009).

Contemporary agenda setting theory examines the agenda setting role from the traits perspective in comparison to the traditional agenda issues. The attributes agenda setting focuses on characteristics and traits of issues that define and compose the agenda (Valenzuela & Combs, 2007). By focusing both on the issue and attributes the theory helps one to understand how issues gain saliency. According to agenda setting theory the most salient issues in the media agenda informs viewers, readers and listeners the type of issues to think about, which in turn shapes public opinion and issues to be considered by policy makers (Dearing &Rogers, 1996).

The theory argues that there is stiff competition of issues to be on the agenda; however no society is capable to attend to all the issues at once as the size of the public agenda is constrained by limited resources. The most salient issues that catch the attention of decision makers are the ones handled (McCombs, 2004; Kingdon, 2014; Birkland, 2007). According McCombs public agenda is believed to typically include no more than five to seven issues at any particular time, however recent studies have placed the range from two to six issues. McCombs (2004) further argues that issues gain significance of public attention if they can attract at least 10% of public concern.

Stakeholders approach

The study was also premised on stakeholders' approach which argues that organizations success is dependent on how it manages the relationship with key groups that can affect the realization of its purpose (Ndlela, 2019). Stakeholders can be either internal or external. According to Friedman & Miles (2006) an organization purpose is to manage the interest, needs and viewpoints of stakeholders. According to Alpaslam, Green and Mitroff (2009) organizations that adopt principles of stakeholders approach tend to frequently and pro-actively engage with stakeholders. Stakeholders approach suggest that public organizations that focuses in understanding the relationship between an organization and individuals who can affect or be affected by it are better positioned to deal with societal issues(Freeman, et.al. 2010).
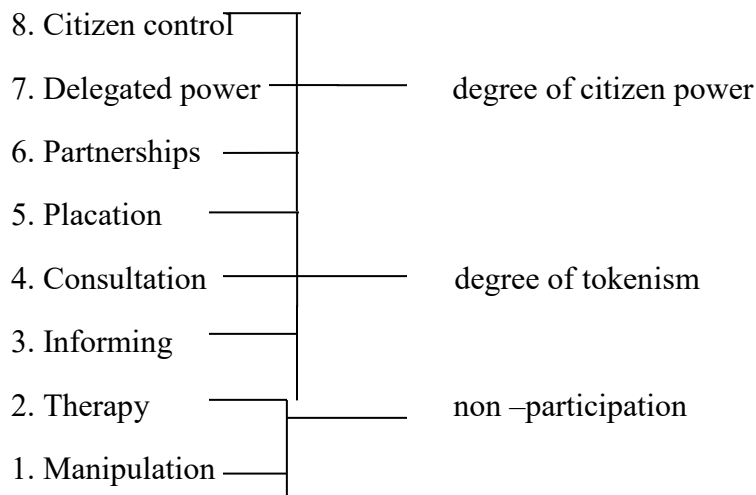
This does not imply that representatives of the various groups must sit on decision making units nor does it mean they have no rights. According to the approach for decisions to be effective and generally accepted decision makers should endeavor to ensure that they involve/adopt/

incorporate views and suggestions of the community on issues that affect them (Freeman, et.al. 2010). According to this approach, organizations can be best understood as a set of relationship among groups with interest in the activities the organization (Freeman, Harrison, & Wicks, 2007).

Community participation

Participation occurs when citizens perceive themselves as a having a significant stake in decisions being made (Creighton, 2005). Participation as a concept has been used to describe activities, processes carried out, directive or non-directive by responsible authorities or initiated by people themselves for social development and betterment of community member (Samah & Aref, 2011). Zimmerman & Rappaport (1988) further argues that participation is involvement of citizens in any organization activity without pay.

Arnstein's (1969) ladder of citizen participation, categorizes levels of participation into three broad categories: degree of citizen power, degree of tokenism and non-participation (Cogan, Sharpe & Hertberg, 1986). Willems, Van Den Bergh & Viaene (2017) further explains the different levels of Arnsteins ladder of citizen participation as : citizens have control when they have complete managerial control, delegated power when they possess dominant decisions making power, partnerships when they can negotiate, placation when citizen don't have decision making power but their advice is sought, consultation occurs when citizens are views being heard, therapy and manipulation occurs when citizens are symbolically involved and educated respectively.

8. Citizen control

7. Delegated power ———————— degree of citizen power

6. Partnerships ———

5. Placation ———

4. Consultation ———————— degree of tokenism

3. Informing

2. Therapy ——— non –participation

1. Manipulation ———

According to Cogan(1986) and, Damgaard & Lewis (2014) Citizen Participation in agenda setting can make the process effective and responsive by minimizing isolation of the planner from the public, generating trust and collaboration, opportunities to share information, aiding in

identification of alternative solutions, identifying additional dimensions of research and inquiry, and increases public support. In strengthening relationships citizen participation is essential in providing input to decision making at all levels of government particularly in the emerging information society, government agencies are obligated to prepare and adopt for greater and fast interaction with citizens (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2001). Burby (2003) further argues that citizens have local knowledge that can help plans appreciate local values and conditions which if ignored has the potential to lead to ineffective plans.

According to Cogan et.al (1986) there are various techniques available for soliciting public input in agenda setting. These techniques range from open meetings to more sophisticated techniques. They range from passive to active involvement. This techniques should be applied all levels of government while responding to citizen demands. According to OECD (2001) decisions at all levels of governments affect citizens though they have the most and close contact with local levels of government who deliver a majority of government policies and services. Effectiveness of these techniques increases if they apply to all administrative decisions by agencies, provide a platform for constructive interaction between citizens and decision making agencies and citizens have some influence on decisions made (Creighton, 2005).

Publicity is used to convince and seek public support, citizen are passive consumers. Public education provides fairly complete and equal access to information for citizens to make own conclusions. Public input solicits for ideas and opinions from the community. Public interaction facilitates exchange of ideas and information amongst citizens, planners, decision makers. Participants express their opinions and respond to opinions of others and work towards consensus (Cogan et.al, 1986).

Table 1: Techniques available for soliciting public input in agenda setting

Publicity	Public education	Public input	Public interaction	Public partnership
Building public support	Disseminating information	Collecting information	Two-way communication	Securing advice and consensus

  ←   Passive   Active   →

Forms of citizen participation

Cultivation of public participation as a policy/strategy in decision-making is a conscious decision that has to be made by security agencies. According to Susskind & Elliott (1988) there exist patterns of public interactions. He describes the patterns as paternalism (the public are informed

of decisions by elites), conflict (there is distrust and second-guessing between elites and citizens), and coproduction (decision making power is shared by elites and the public). According to Andrews (2007) the rationality of public decisions is enhanced by participation.

Citizens participate in decision making is through information sharing, collaboration, consultation, joint decision making, and empowerment (Arnstein 1969; Brinkerhoff & Crosby, 2002; Willems, Van der Bergh & Viacne, 2017). All these forms of public participation employs a variety of techniques such as public hearings, community workshops, focus groups, citizen panels/community advisory boards/committees, ballot/Referenda, public meetings, surveys, Crowd sourcing, etc.(Ambrose, 2013; Cogan et.al, 1986)

In Kenya community policing has been adopted as a strategy of community participation in security matters. According to Kappelar & Gaines (2015) community policing empowers the community to participate in security management. This implies that security agents derive their roles and agendas from the community; hence the police view themselves as a part of the community.

In Kenya community policing has been domesticated, according to the National police service (2019), "community policing is an approach that recognizes the independence and shared responsibility of the police and the community in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all citizens. It aims at establishing an active and equal partnership between the police and the public through which crime and community safety issues can jointly be discussed and solutions determined and implemented."

Community policing is geared towards building relationships and partnerships, and problem solving. It is a partnership because it enhances relationships building and interactions between security agencies and the community (Ferreira, 1996), security agencies assist the people in addressing various problems including crime, and in return seek support and active participation in solving the problems from the community. As partners the community and security agencies engage each other cooperatively to resolve social problems (Kappelar & Gaines, 2015, p 2).
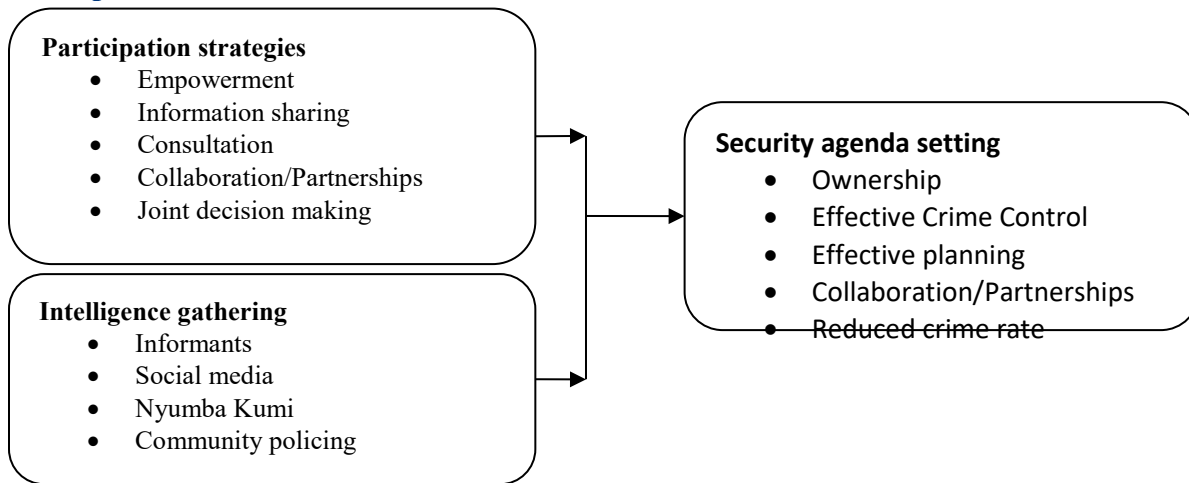
Intelligence gathering and security agenda setting

There is a shift in the security sector towards crime prevention as opposed to crime management. The security is shifting from reactive policing to pro-active policing. Thus intelligence gathering becomes a core component of the security agenda in the country. To gather accurate and timely intelligence by security agents require honest and timely public participation of the community members. Traditional security management and crime prevention strategies involving surveillance, investigation, intimidation and use of force employed by security agencies are not sufficient in the current dynamic and more informed society on civil liberties and rights

(Jackson, 2015). According to Ratcliffe (2016), "the current environment is one where communities, especially ones with individuals susceptible to radicalization, are increasingly transnational (either physically or electronically) leaving the tracking of people, funds and radical ideologies across border challenging. The increasing need to manage risky places and people is at the core of the significance changes adopted by security agencies in the public domain in security management (Ratcliffe, 2016). Involvement of community in security agenda setting has the potential of benefiting security agencies in intelligence gathering and prevention of crime. According to Afacan (2007) this can be true based on "lessons drawn from the principles of community policing literature" hence "eventually increasing and strengthen police-community relationship, create new opportunities for open communication, increase mutual respect, and expand the confidence and trust in police."

In the current era of information technology, access to information by the public has increased; the public have access to information on crime and platforms/mediums to which they can share the same information. Thus, intelligence gathered with the help of citizen's form the basis for security agenda setting and decision making (Delpeuch & Rose, 2016). After each lapse in security, security agencies try to protect society against crime or criminal elements; citizens, the press and bloggers dissect in social media crime patterns with certainty (Ratcliffe, 2016). This can be argued that the community is a rich source of crucial intelligence on crime that can be exploited to prevent crime in the society which if ignored may lead to ineffective plans (Burby, 2003).

The use of members' public/citizen in information gathering and public awareness is a major factor in security management in this era. The increased role of citizens in security management can be viable and successful if security agencies increase citizen participation in security agenda setting (Afacan, 2007). However, Citizens have always had concerns in partnering security agencies in their efforts to address criminal activities. They have exhibited unwillingness to get involved and divulge information to security agencies due to various reasons including fear of lack of confidentiality, fear of victimization, and suspicion of direct involvement of some security agents in criminal activities (Bezuidenhout, 2011). The role of security agencies in intelligence gathering cannot be underscored, however good intelligence comes from good sources in the community. To have good intelligence principles such as legitimacy, trust, fairness and impartiality by security agencies must be adhered to and implemented in their operations. According to Afacan (2007) it is a fact that inadequate trust and information leads to a gap of information that leads to inadequate intelligence.

Conception Framework

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┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Participation strategies             │
│   • Empowerment                      │
│   • Information sharing              │
│   • Consultation                    │
│   • Collaboration/Partnerships      │
│   • Joint decision making           │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘

┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Intelligence gathering               │
│   • Informants                      │
│   • Social media                    │
│   • Nyumba Kumi                     │
│   • Community policing              │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘

┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Security agenda setting              │
│   • Ownership                       │
│   • Effective Crime Control         │
│   • Effective planning              │
│   • Collaboration/Partnerships      │
│   • Reduced crime rate              │
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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employed descriptive research design as it seeks to describe the effect of the variables of study on security agenda in the sub-county. This design is preferred over others because it supports a wide variety of research methods for investigating study variables. The area of study was Westland Sub-County, Nairobi County. It is located in Nairobi region of Kenya with a total population of 780,656 (according to 2019 census). Westland Sub-County has been chosen because it's cosmopolitan in nature; it brings a mix of classes in the society. There are wealthy neighborhoods, middle class, lower class and the business community. In addition the nature of crimes in the area is as dynamic and diverse as the composition of the Sub-County and Nairobi County as a whole. The study targeted 4 sub-county security and intelligence committee members , 3ACC's, OCS, 6 Chiefs, 15 Assistant Chiefs, 98 Village Elders,42 Nyumba Kumi Clusters member,15 peace committees members in the sub-county all totally to 184. The sub-county security and intelligence committee, ACC's, OCS, Chiefs, and Assistant Chiefs are responsible for setting and implementing security agenda at their levels. Peace committee members, Nyumba Kumi cluster members and village elders are community led structures that works with, and or acts a link between the community and security organs.

The researcher used non-probability sampling technique by adopting purposive sampling method to select the respondents. This method was used because the researcher targets specific group of people (security team) within the scope area. It purposefully included all the sub-county security team, OCS, all ACC's, Chiefs, some assistant chiefs, Nyumba Kumi clusters, peace committees and village elders. The number of assistant chiefs, Nyumba Kumi clusters, peace committees, village elders involved in the study was selected using Krejice and Morgan (1970) equation.
The following table summarizes the sample size that was used in the study based on different categories of individuals involved in sub-county security team.

Table 2: Sample Size

Security Team category	Total number of members	Sample size
SSIC	4	2
ACCs	3	2
OCS	1	1
Chiefs	6	6
Assistant Chiefs	15	15
Nyumba Kumi Clusters	42	13
Peace Committees	15	5
Village Elders	98	30
Total	184	74

The study employed Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), the formula that argues a sample of 10% as a representative of the larger population and a sample of 30% to be drawn from a smaller population; hence the sample size for the study is projected to be 63 from total population target of 184 as in table 2 above.

The researcher used survey and interview methods to collect primary data. It involved interview guides and semi-structured interviews. These methods were used because they are convenient and provide first-hand information from the respondents. Primary collection of data was by filling the semi-structured questionnaires and conducting face-to-face interviews. For closed ended question, Linkert scale was adapted as questionnaires drafted in this format are ideal for measuring of attitudes, beliefs and opinions hence ideal for the researcher in quantifying and analysis of the findings. Primary data collected from the questionnaires was sorted to determine the ones that have not been completely filled before embarking on analysis process. data processing and analysis was done using descriptive statistical methods such as tables, frequencies and percentages for easy presentations of findings in form of pie charts, graphs and tables if need be (Triola, 2008).Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to aid in analysis as it covers a wide range common statistical and graphical data analysis systematically hence making research material easier to read. Further On the other hand, the recorded responses from the interviews was transcribed into word form for analysis. Kothari & Gaurav (2014) argues that the descriptive survey findings should be reported by developing frequency distribution tables, calculating rates and tabulation. The researcher used content analysis approach to establish presence of particular themes, concepts or words within the data collected and hence analyze and quantify the meaning and correlation of such words, concepts or themes (Columbia Public health, 2021).

FINDINGS, ANALYSIS, AND RESULTS

The researcher sampled 2 members of the Sub-County Security and Intelligence Committee (SSIC), 2 Assistant County Commissioners, Officer Commanding Station (OCS), 6 Chiefs, 15 Assistant chiefs, 13 members of Nyumba Kumi, 5 Peace Committee members, and 30 village elders, amounting to 74 respondents. Out of the 74 questionnaires distributed by the researcher, 49 were filled and submitted for coding and analysis. As a result, 49 respondents participated in the study, representing a response rate of 66.2%. On the position held by the respondents, 1 is a member of the Sub-County Security and Intelligence Committee (SSIC), 2 serve as Assistant County Commissioners, and two as OCS', 5 chiefs, 7 assistant chiefs, 10 members of Nyumba Kumi, 5 Peace Committee Members, and 18 village elders. On the Strategies employed in citizen participation, 8.3% of the respondents said consultation and collaboration or partnership approaches are used to achieve the same agenda. Those who support information sharing said the approach is effective and convenient. One of the chiefs said it "enables the office to get adequate and detailed information. It also allows for coming up with a joint course of action or remedies." On the other hand, the chiefs and assistant chiefs who support information sharing as the most effective modes of engaging citizens in security agenda-setting said it is cheap and easy to collect information through public meetings.

The findings in table 2 are further affirmed by findings of data collected from members of the Sub-County Security Committee, ACC, and OCS that show that information sharing (50%) as the most preferred strategy for citizen engagement in security agenda setting. The other strategies preferred are consultation (25%) and collaboration (25%).

These findings align with Arnstein's (1969) ladder of citizen participation which puts participation into three broad categories: degree of citizen power, tokenism, and non-participation. According to Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation, delegated power and partnership determine the degree of citizen power, while informing and consultation determine the degree of tokenism. Burby (2003) shows that information sharing plays a significant role in agenda setting as citizens have local knowledge or information that is instrumental in security planning. Other scholars further affirmed this as they found that citizens participate in decision-making through information sharing, collaboration, consultation, joint decision-making, and empowerment (Arnstein, 1969; Brinkerhoff & Crosby, 2002; Willems, Van der Bergh & Viacne, 2017).

Citizen participation and security agenda setting

In order to determine if security agencies engage citizens in security agenda setting the study sought to determine strategies employed by security agents to engage citizens or members of the

public in security agenda setting in order to ascertain the degree of citizen participation. Table 3 summarizes the study findings.

Table 3: Strategies employed in citizen participation

Strategy	Frequency (N)	Rate (%)
Information Sharing	10	83.4
Consultation	1	8.3
Collaboration/partnership	1	8.3
Delegation of power	0	0.0
Joint Decision making	0	0.0
Total	**12**	**100.0**

(Researcher, 2022)

The findings in table 3 show that security agents majorly use information sharing to engage citizens in security agenda setting. Only 8.3% of the respondents said consultation and collaboration or partnership approaches are used to achieve the same agenda. Those who support information sharing said the approach is effective and convenient. One of the chiefs said it "enables the office to get adequate and detailed information. It also allows for coming up with a joint course of action or remedies." On the other hand, the chiefs and assistant chiefs who support information sharing as the most effective modes of engaging citizens in security agenda-setting said it is cheap and easy to collect information through public meetings.

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Modes of employing strategies used in citizen participation by security agencies

The research sought to find out how the preferred strategy for citizen engagement in security agenda setting is implemented

Table 4: Modes of employing strategies used in citizen participation

Mode of strategy implementation	Frequency (N)	Rate (%)
Public meetings	5	41.7
Mass media	1	8.4
Social media	1	8.3
Phone call	1	8.3
Letter/Memoranda	1	8.3
Committees	3	25.0
Total	12	100.0

(Researcher, 2022)

The researcher further sought to find out how the preferred strategy for citizen engagement is implemented. The finding of the study shows that security agencies preferred public meetings and committees as modes of citizen engagement. According to this table 4, chiefs and assistant chiefs believe that public meeting is the most preferred way, with 41.7%, followed by committees (25%), and the least is mass media, social media, phone calls, and letter, with each having an 8.3% support from the respondents. The findings in table 3 align with the findings from the Sub-County Security Committee, ACC, and OCS interview. The findings show that Assistant County Commissioners and OCS engage citizens or the public in security agenda settings by holding public meetings, representing 75% of the interviewed respondents. Only 25% engage citizens via social media. Figure 2 gives a summary of the findings from the Sub-County Security Committee, ACC, and OCS.

These findings are supported by some reviewed articles in the literature review section. Cogan et al. (1986) identified various techniques for soliciting public input in agenda setting. These techniques range from open or public meetings to more sophisticated strategies. According to this study, interaction through public meetings facilitates the exchange of ideas and information among citizens, planners, and decision-makers. Participants express their opinions and respond to the opinions of others and work towards consensus. Also, Ambrose (2013) shows that different forms of public participation employ various techniques, such as public hearings,

community workshops, focus groups, citizen panels/community advisory boards/committees, ballot/Referenda, public meetings, surveys, and Crowdsourcing.

Most common strategy involved in citizen participation

The researcher sought to determine the most common technique used by security agents to engage citizens in security agenda settings by getting views from chiefs and assistant chiefs as they are first contact security agents that frequently engage citizens.

Table 5: Most common strategy involved in citizen participation

Strategies involved in Citizen participation	Frequency (N)	Rate (%)
Information Sharing	9	75.0
Consultation	2	16.7
Collaboration/partnership	1	8.3
Delegation of power	0	0.0
Joint decision-making	0	0.0
Total	**12**	**100.0**

(Researcher, 2022)

Table 5 shows that information sharing is the most common strategy used in citizens' participation in security agenda setting, with 75.0% of the area chiefs and assistant chiefs. The second leading strategy is consultation (16.7%), and the least preferred is collaboration/partnership. None of the remaining strategies are used by security agents to engage citizens in this process. The use of this approach to engage citizens in security agenda-setting in Kenya has been affirmed by different scholars who describe it as community policing. Kappelar and Gaines (2015) argue that community policing empowers the community to participate in security management. This implies that security agents derive their roles and agendas from the community; hence the police view themselves as a part of the community. As a result, community policing majorly entails information sharing or exchange between community members and security agents. Also, Ferreira (1996) also shows that community policing is geared toward building relationships, partnerships, and problem-solving. It is a partnership because it enhances relationship-building and interactions between security agencies and the community.

Intelligence gathering and security agenda setting

The findings in table 5 show that security agencies sometimes (41.7%) share intelligence information with community members. This is affirmed by 8.3% of the data collected from security agents who believe that they always share intelligence information with citizens. However, 25% are opposed to this view, arguing that security agencies rarely or never share such information. The researcher further engaged security agents to determine their views on whether they receive intelligence information from the citizens. The findings show that citizens often or always report such crucial information to security agents. These findings present an inverse trend, meaning that security agents receive a lot of intelligence information from community members, but they (security agents) rarely share the same with the citizens within the scope area. These findings are affirmed by participants from the peace Committees, village elders, and Nyumba Kumi Cluster. Table 6 summarizes the results.

Table 3: The extent of sharing intelligence information to the public

Rating	Frequency (N)	Rate (%)
Never	5	15.2
Rarely	1	3.0
Sometimes	15	45.5
Often	2	6.1
Always	10	30.2
Total	**33**	**100.0**

The findings in table 6 show that 45.5% of the participants believe that security agencies do not regularly share intelligence information with community members. According to one of them, "Most of the time, it is the Wananchi who give information to security agencies." Others said the information is only shared sometimes for fear of leaking or due to some confidential matters. However, 30.2% are convinced that intelligence information is always shared with the public; as opposed to 15.2% who said the information is never dispatched to the public. Those who agreed that the information is shared described it as one way of enhancing security and promoting peace by security agents within the scope area.

Similarly, the issue of whether security agencies receive intelligence information from community members is affirmed by the information shared by village elders, peace Committee members, and Nyumba Kumi clusters. Out of the 33 participants, 51.5% believe that security agencies frequently receive intelligence information from community members. This is

supported by 24.2% who said members of the public share intelligence information frequently. One of the respondents said, "Community members share information very frequently so that security challenges can be addressed promptly or urgently." These findings align with a study conducted by Delpeuch and Rose (2016), who found that intelligence, gathered with the help of citizens' forms the basis for security agenda-setting and decision-making. This is affirmed by Burby (2003), who argues that the community is a rich source of crucial intelligence on crime that can be exploited to prevent crime in society which, if ignored, may lead to ineffective plans.

Only 21.7% and 3.1% of the respondents said such information is occasionally and rarely shared by the public. According to them, community members fail to share such information for fear of victimization, while others are afraid of being implicated. This was affirmed by Bezuidenhout (2011), who found that citizens have always had concerns about partnering with security agencies in their efforts to address criminal activities. They have exhibited an unwillingness to get involved and divulge information to security agencies due to various reasons, including fear of lack of confidentiality, fear of victimization, and suspicion of direct involvement of some security agents in criminal activities

How intelligence information shared by the public inform security agenda setting

Table 4: Intelligence information sharing and security agenda setting

Rating	Frequency (N)	Rate (%)
Sometimes	3	25.0
Often	5	41.7
Always	4	33.3
Total	**12**	**100.0**

The findings in table 7 show intelligence information shared by the public highly informs security agenda-setting in Westland Sub-County, Nairobi County. This is according to 41.7% of the respondents (chiefs and assistant chiefs) who said it often informs security agenda setting in the security and peace committees that they chair. Also, 33.3% of the respondents expressed a significant impact of intelligence information shared by citizens, followed by 25.0% who reported that sometimes it informs security agenda setting. This is supported by Afacan (2007), who argued that the role of security agencies in intelligence gathering could not be underscored; however, good intelligence comes from good sources in the community. To have good intelligence, principles such as legitimacy, trust, fairness, and impartiality by security agencies must be adhered to and implemented in their operations. This shows that inadequate trust in information shared by the public can significantly comprise the process of security agenda

setting. This show that intelligence information shared by the locals significantly influences security agenda-setting.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This study aimed to determine the effects of community participation on security agenda setting in Westland Sub-County, Nairobi County. The findings show that security agents majorly use information sharing to engage citizens in security agenda setting, especially by holding public meetings. Regarding intelligence gathering, the findings show that citizens share intelligence information more with security agents, making it easier to maintain peace within the scope area. However, some citizens are unwilling to share such information due to fear of victimization or being exposed. Also, it was found that security agents hardly share security-related or intelligence information with members of the public due to confidentiality. This explains why they are rarely or occasionally involved in decision-making regarding security matters. The inferential analysis shows a positive correlation between dependent and independent variables. However, intelligence gathering has the highest influence on security agenda setting, followed by information sharing, citizens participation in decision-making, and the least is forms of citizen participation.

The study findings shows that citizen participation in agenda setting through intelligence gathering, information sharing and participation in decision making results in better decision making that reflect the interests and values of citizens because they get more information, decisions considers the needs of citizens and are likely not to be challenged.

Also citizens involvement in security agenda setting can result in synergies that can help in solving and managing insecurity in the long term as participation improves trust and relationships, stakeholder appreciate each other's position and develop meaningful and collaborative engagements

Recommendations

Citizen participation and security agenda setting

The study shows that public meeting is the most common strategy used by security agents to engage citizens or collect security-related and intelligence information. The other strategies are hardly or rarely used to collect or gather such critical information, yet they are the safest and most secure. Therefore, the researcher recommends that the Kenyan government, through different security agencies, sensitize security agents in Westland Sub-County to adopt other safe

and convenient methods of sharing and gathering intelligence information from the locals to ensure none of the community members fear being victimized by those who witness them reporting security matters during public meetings. Some people have crucial information that can help security agents but are afraid of sharing it because of such concerns.

Intelligence gathering and agenda setting

Security agencies to continually build confidence and trust with citizens by ensuring that they are responsive to their concerns and maintaining confidentiality. This trust and confidence can be built if there is a robust feedback mechanism for action and no-action on intelligence provided.

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