

**TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS OF MOB JUSTICE ON PUBLIC  
SECURITY BETWEEN THE YEARS 2009 TO 2013  
A CASE OF TRANS - NZOLA WEST DISTRICT IN KENYA**

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**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in Public Administration of Mount Kenya University**



MKU217/13

HV6252.5.A33 2013

**OCTOBER 2013**

## ABSTRACT

Despite the Constitution of Kenya (2010) offering extensive protection for human rights to all including accused persons, mob justice still persists. This results in adverse effects on families whose breadwinners are either killed or sustain serious injuries. It is evident that the factors influencing public security such as the trends and implications of mob justice are not well understood and as the problem persists with its adverse consequences on these communities. Moreover, mob justice reflects the moral decadence in society and therefore needs to be addressed and corrective measures instituted. This study therefore attempted to investigate the trends and implications of mob justice on public security in Trans-Nzoia West District in order to enhance development of more effective interventions to this problem. Agnew Structural Strain Theory (2009) was the theoretical framework underpinning the study. The study design was descriptive survey. The study used both quantitative and qualitative designs. The area of study was Trans-Nzoia West District in Kenya and the target population was Community based policing committee members, Police officers, Chiefs and Magistrates in Trans-Nzoia West District. A sample of 200 respondents was selected from the target population of 494 people using simple random sampling technique. The researcher collected primary data through questionnaires and interview schedules. Secondary data were collected from the Kenya Police crime reports. The analysis of data involved the establishment of categories of the raw data, coding, tabulation and then drawing statistical conclusions such as the computation of various percentages and frequency counts by applying statistical techniques through the help of Statistical Package for Social Science Programme (SPSS). The time series mob justice data collected from police crime reports was analyzed using least square and decomposition of time series methods to establish the trends and seasonal variations of mob justice. The trends and patterns of mob justice between the years 2009 to 2013 in Trans-Nzoia West District showed a positively inclined trend line  $Y = 2.03 + 0.25(X)$  therefore indicating an increasing rate of mob justice. Statistical evidence showed that there was a relationship between seasons, crime and mob justice. Correlation coefficient was +0.54 which indicated a positive linear association between seasons, crime and mob justice in Trans-Nzoia West District. This linear association of crime and mob justice in the District was attributed to fluctuations in employment opportunities caused by the seasonal nature of the agricultural sector which is the backbone of the economy of the district. Other than poverty and unemployment, the findings also showed other courses of mob justice as relating to deficiencies in the criminal justice system. The study recommended the establishment of early warning mechanisms, development of alternative livelihood activities and amendment of Articles 49 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 35 of the Penal Code. The study aims to provide police professionals, crime analysts, scholars and students of public administration with considerable knowledge which can be used to formulate sector relevant policies.