

**ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY IN
CONTROLLING POLICE MISCONDUCT IN KENYA: THE CASE OF NAIROBI
COUNTY**

BY GREGORY.M.KISESE

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the role of IPOA in controlling Police misconduct in Nairobi County. IPOA has done little to make ordinary Kenyans aware of its existence and mandate. The authority was given powers but things remain the same. A study on the role of IPOA in controlling Police misconduct in Kenya may enable IPOA and government to seek appropriate interventions and stem the problem. The study sought to inform on the effective interventions to address challenges facing IPOA and the police, and to provide information to policy makers and stakeholders and also create opportunities for further research. The study utilised both Control Theory and Systems theory to explain the role of IPOA in controlling Police misconduct in Nairobi County. The site of the study was Nairobi County whereby the primary data was collected from 20 members of the public and 20 police officers of various ranks attached in various divisions and police units within Nairobi County. The study used survey design whereby systematic random sampling was used to select the police officers and simple random sampling to select the members of public. The total number of respondents was 40 respondents. Data was collected by the use of two structured questionnaires for police officers and members of public. Secondary data was obtained from document analysis of local security reports, international reports and policy papers. The quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Programme for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer package while qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. The study found that the Police malpractices experienced by most of the respondents in the past 12 months were Police involvement in criminal activities, Police procedural malpractices, threats and physical harm. Inadequate investigative capacity was the leading challenge facing IPOA followed by inadequate human/financial resources. The most important challenges facing the Police were budgetary deficits, inadequate trained personnel, corruption and a negative work environment. The strategies for better policing services in Kenya that were recommended include addressing challenges facing IPOA and the Police; Seek adequate budgetary allocation; ensure training of investigators and publicize IPOA. The study recommends that government address challenges facing IPOA and the Police such as seeking adequate budgetary allocation ensure training of more investigators and officers, publicizing IPOA and addressing corruption and the negative work environment. Further studies are recommended in other security and non-security agencies.