

**INFLUENCE OF DEVOLUTION IN COMPLEMENTING THE PROVISION OF
POLICING BY THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE: A CASE STUDY OF WAJIR
COUNTY, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

The promulgation of Kenya Constitution 2010 occasioned devolved government system which ultimately led to the establishment of 47 counties. The county governments have fourteen devolved functions. Whereas provision of security, is a prerogative of the National Government, devolution has necessitated the realignment of the National Police Service to meet the needs of the new constitutional dispensation. Thus security is a shared function controlled by the National Government. The establishment of IPOA and Police Service Commission with oversight and regulatory roles are benchmarks for police reforms, and realignment to meet devolution needs. Whether the realignment by devolution has enhanced or deterred the provision of security, was the subject of this study. At the centre of security provision and police-civilian contact is community policing which promotes civilian participation in security matters at the grassroots. The study was conducted in Wajir County which is far from the capital and has witnessed incessant security lapses due to many factors. This research project adopted descriptive research design and non-probabilistic sampling technique to select a sample of 89. Primary data was collected through the use of questionnaires. Results of the study showed that there are obstacles facing the service delivery in NPS. The challenges include; limited resources and tribalism in recruitment. The obstacles can be mitigated through coordinated efforts between national government and county government on security matters, alternative resources mobilization strategies. Secondly, members of the public have eroded their confidence from the police force, which can be improved through joint public and police training on the role of each party. Thirdly, the findings showed that community members were rarely included in community policy though they were willing to participate. The study concluded that the obstacles facing security delivery can be addressed through resources mobilization and alternative financing strategies to the security. Since police officers have a great role to improve the level of public confidence on security issues they should promote mutual relationship with members of the public as such improve security provision in Wajir County. Community members ought to be involved more in security provision since they understand the locality very well and they can act as a good information source.