

EVALUATION OF IMPLIMENTATION OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN FIGHTING
CRIME IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY:

A CASE STUDY OF NGARUA DIVISION

BY

FREDRICK OKWIRI

REG NO.:BACSM/2013/45541

A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE AWARD
OF A BACHELOR DEGREE OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY STUDIES
OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2016

Chapter 1: Introduction

In the last 3 decades community policing (CP) has attracted increasing attention as a strategy to improve public security and safety. It seeks to transform the policing organizations from reliance on criminal law and procedures to adopt consensual extra-legal strategies in problem solving (Brogden 2002:170) and emphasizes participation and partnership with the communities in order to address security and other social order problems. This co-production of social order is a key defining characteristic of CP and is founded on two basic assumptions; one, that positive day-to-day encounters with the police are an important avenue through which the public image of the police can be enhanced and bring changes in the public reservations regarding police trustworthiness (Goldsmith 2005; Muller 2010; Tenkebe 2008); secondly, that improvement in the citizen perceptions of police trustworthiness and legitimacy will increase the willingness of residents to cooperate with police and comply with the law (Hawdon 2008:183).

As an alternative policing strategy, it has been in existence for about three decades and has been widely practiced in North America and Europe (Brogden 2004; Ruteere and Pommerolle 2003). Given the adversarial characteristics of the relationship between the police and the public in most developing countries, CP has been presented as viable strategy to re-build trust between the police and the public and to improve security (Goldsmith 2005; Muller 2010; Rahmawati and Azca 2006; Ruteere and Pommerolle 2003).

It has been adopted in many of the developing countries emerging from different kinds of conflicts or making a transition from years of authoritarian rule characterized by politicisation of policing institutions, gross abuse of human rights by the police and lack of accountability (CHRI 2005, Goldsmith 2005; Ruteere and Pommerolle 2003), which created a poor relationship between the