

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN CRIME  
REDUCTION; ACASE STUDY OF KIRINYAGA COUNTY, CENTRAL KENYA**

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**A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
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## ABSTRACT

Community policing was first initiated in London in 1829 by Metropolitan Police District. The British parliament hoped to address the soaring crime rate in and around the nation's capital when it was growing. Community policing was also initiated in South Africa in the early 1990's. It was aimed at democratizing and legitimizing the police. Later there was a shift towards improving service delivery and tackling crime issues. The initiative succeeded in building trust between citizens and the police. Community policing is a Government funded initiative built on the premise that everyone should be working to reduce the fear of crime. A glimpse at police departments and communities across the nation who have implemented community policing, will reveal if there's been any change, real or otherwise. This proposal will be used to assess the role of the Community policing Initiative in Kirinyaga County in curbing crimes and also to help the Government to find solutions on the challenges. This research study will be guided by the following objectives: to determine the effectiveness of joint community-police patrols in reducing crime rate in Kirinyaga County, to find out the effectiveness of youth vigilante as a means of crime reduction in Kirinyaga County and to examine the role played by community in community court process to reduce crimes in Kirinyaga County. The researcher will employ descriptive survey analysis using both qualitative and quantitative approach. Sample population of 100 community members, joint patrol groups, youth vigilante groups, administrative officers as their respondents which will be selected through cluster sampling comprising of government security agents. The questionnaires will be analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics and presented in form of tables, charts and graphs. The data will be analyzed using various statistical softwares such as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), and Microsoft Excel. The research study will be significant to the people of Kirinyaga County by contributing to the better understanding of the extent to which community policing has helped in crime reduction in the study area and beyond. It will also be of importance to the government, since it will help in planning on security matters in the country. The data collected through focused group discussions that will be used to compliment and triangulate with the quantitative data. The citizens of Kirinyaga stand out to benefit since they will be informed on how to get directly involved in community court process, joint patrols and vigilante groups. The study will bring out the management measures to be put in place to reduce crime in Kirinyaga County.