

# Partnership between Formal and Informal Police Institutions and the Challenges of Crime Control in Kano Metropolis

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**Abstract:** Over the years, crime has been one of the major challenges affecting the progress of Nigeria. To tackle this problem, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) was established with the mandate to detect and prevent criminal activities, apprehend its perpetrators, and as well enforce law and order in the country. However, in recent time, it appears the NPF cannot contend the enormous crime problems Nigeria is facing. This necessitated the establishment of other crime control agencies by local communities in the country, such as the vigilantes, to ensure their protection and that of their property. In spite of this, crime still prevails in an unprecedented rate, despite the existence of the two police institutions. This observation led to the emergence of this study which examined partnership between formal and informal police institutions, and the challenges they face in crime control. To achieve this, the study used a sample survey of eight local government areas in the Kano metropolis. Questionnaire and in-depth interview methods were used to collect data from the population of study that comprised; Men/Officers of the NPF and members of vigilante groups in the metropolis. Findings from the study showed among others that, the main challenge confronting partnership between the NPF and vigilante groups in Kano metropolis in their attempt to control crime, is the issue of unprofessionalism on the part of the vigilantes. Consequent upon this, it was recommended from the study that, there is need for local government in the metropolis to partner the NPF in training members of the vigilante groups that supply security services within their domain. Such training should be on basic skills in crime management and control. If this is done, it will assist greatly in crime control.

**Keywords:** Crime, Police, Control, Partnership, Institution.

## Introduction

In recent time, the spate of crime in Nigeria is on the increase and more so, on a very worrisome dimension. The country now, more than ever before, is plagued with serious crime problems such as: insurgency in the northeast; herdsmen/farmers clash in the middle belt and some parts of the south-eastern region; militancy, cultism, and kidnapping in the south-south; and armed robbery in the west, etc (Odivwri & Abraham, 2015). At the forefront to tackle these crime problems in Nigeria, is the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) that is constitutionally mandated to provide internal security to Nigerians and foreigners residing and doing business in the country (Inyang & Abraham, 2013). On April 1, 1930 during the inauguration of the NPF, its statutory function was spelt out and it includes; detection and prevention of crime, apprehending and prosecution of criminals, protection of lives and property of citizens, enforcement and maintenance of laws and order.” It was

later that the function of “ensuring free flow of traffic especially in the cities was added (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN, 1966, amended 1999).

Unfortunately, the NPF that is charged with these responsibilities has been found in recent time incapable of tackling the enormous crime problems ravaging the country effectively. This is due to many factors working against their effective performance such as; inadequate manpower, lack of operational/scientific facilities, lack of adequate modern training and crime fighting skills, lack of proper synergy with sister security agencies, lack of adequate funding and sufficient welfare packages, etc (Inyang & Abraham, 2013). This ineffectiveness in crime control on the part of the NPF has become a morale booster to criminals who have taken advantage to attack vulnerable/soft members of the public indiscriminately in their criminal bid. Consequently, majority of persons living or doing business in the country have lost the necessary trust and sense of safety in the security services supplied by the NPF and they have responded in the establishment of informal crime control structures such as; Hisbah in the north, Bakassi boys in the east, and the Oduduwa Peoples’ Congress (OPC) in the western region of the country, to ensure their safety and that of their property (Inyang & Abraham, 2013; Wisler & Onwudiwe, 2005).

Presently, it is obvious that both formal and informal police institutions exist in Nigeria, even when the constitution recognizes only a single police force: the NPF (Olong, 2010; Inyang and Brown, 2011). The pluralism in police structures is apparent in the strategic location of police stations across the country and the incessant roadblocks and checkpoints put at entrances of communities and streets by vigilante or neighborhood watch groups. In spite of the presence of these security institutions alongside their related agencies, Nigerians and foreigners still do not have the peaceful, and much needed crime free atmosphere for their socioeconomic engagements. More so, the presence of these security institutions does not solve the enormous security challenges Nigeria is facing presently. Sadly, instead of standing firm to tackle hoodlums and their criminal activities, formal and informal police institutions appear to be running away from deadly criminals, joining ordinary members of the public to harbor fear of what will happen next. This has made mockery of our police system. Daily, cases of hoodlum attacks on police stations and vigilante groups who volunteered to assist in crime control awash our newspapers. Many of them who showed bravery in the face of these security challenges have met their untimely death in the hands of hoodlums.

With this present situation, Nigeria appears to be facing a serious security challenge that requires urgent attention. The police that was once seen as an institution that can guarantee safety is now perceived as incapable of providing security to peoples’ lives and property. Also, the vigilantes who emerged as complimentary police formation particularly to the poor masses appear to be unprofessional, unskilled and ineffective in their crime control measures. This has raised concern among security experts as to what is responsible for ineffective police system in Nigeria, despite the presence of both formal and informal police institutions. This study therefore emerged to examine the challenges these police institutions are facing in Nigeria, in their bid to partner and control crime, with particular reference to Kano metropolis. This is necessary because, despite the existence of both formal and informal police institutions (such as; the NPF and vigilante groups) in the metropolis, criminal activities still prevail in an unprecedented rate and it is unabated.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study adopted partnership theory of Dennis P. Rosenbaum as its theoretical guide. The main assumption of the theory is that, criminal justice system cannot, by itself, solve the complex problems of crime and disorder in the society; rather to achieve a stable society with less crime problems, resources from outside the system are desperately needed, as well as new ways of thinking about these problems from the inside. To achieve this, the theory advocates for the creation of "partnerships "or "coalitions" among security institutions, be it formal or informal in order to bring distinctive but complementary skills and resources to the table that can produce coordinated and targeted responses to public safety problems (Rosenbaum, 2003). The tenet of this theory is widely practiced in the emerging collaboration between formal and informal security institutions to tackle crime problems in the world. In Nigeria, such is apparent in the north-eastern region of the country where members of the civilian task force collaborates with officers/men of the Nigeria army to tackle the insurgency prevailing in the region. However, the efficacy of this partnership is what is yet to be adequately assessed by social science scholars particularly in the area of policing and crime control. This study therefore serves as an avenue to achieve this purpose.

### **Partnership Policing: Its Conceptualization**

Partnership policing is a model of policing initiated and developed in the United Kingdom. Evidence in the literature indicates that, it was developed during the 1980s when the model of police paternalism that was embedded in community policing evolved into a new concept of independent agents working together in partnership with formal structures. This form of policing conforms to the idea of a 'multi-agency approach'

whereby the police, the public, elected officials, government and other agencies work in partnership to address crime and community safety (Oppler, 1997; Tugail, 2013). It involves collaboration among police officers, community members, government agencies and other stakeholders in order to prevent crime (Miller & Hess, 2005). It is also a formal structural arrangement between the police and the community with the intention to address crime challenges (Mabunda, 2014).

Partnership policing in practice shows a joint working arrangements where the police, community, and other stakeholders collaborate to design and implement strategies aimed at combating crime (Minnaar, 1999). It is a model of community policing where the police work together with the public to identify crime problems and resolve them (Mabunda, 2014). In attempt to achieve this, different stakeholders involved, share resources, information and other matters and are held accountable for their actions.

Obviously, some countries of the world have adopted this model of policing to effectively police their states. Comparative experiences have shown that, the approach of incorporating a professional police service and a responsible public seems to be the most effective and fruitful way to create a safer environment and it is on the increase in recent decades. Countries that have established, or are in the process of establishing the 'partnership approach', are, in particular, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Holland, France, United States of America, Canada, and South Africa (Homel & Fuller, 2015). With no single model to fit these different contexts, those involved in policing constantly have to use their initiative to formulate 'what works' for them. Each country is tailoring the concept to suit its own environment, people and crime problems (Oppler, 1997).

In Nigeria, partnership policing is yet to be fully adopted as an approach of policing, but there are evidences that it is practiced in the country. A typical example is the obvious collaboration between the formal police institution, the military, and the civilian task force in northeast geopolitical zone of the country where there is high prevalence of terrorist activities. This is in addition to other forms of partnership among government security forces nicknamed: 'Joint Task Force' (a joint team of mobile policemen, military men, and most recently, men of the civil defence corps). In spite of this partnership, crime still prevails in an unprecedented rate even in areas of its apparent practice. This necessitated this study, in order to assess the challenges these police institutions are facing in attempt to work together to control crime, particularly formal and informal police institutions in Kano metropolis.

### **Challenges confronting Partnerships between Formal and Informal Police Institutions in Crime Control**

According to Janneta and Lachman (2011), a number of potential challenges exist for partnerships between police and informal crime control agencies. While collaboration has tremendous value, it is not easy. It brings new resources to the table, but it also requires a meaningful investment from both sets of partners, particularly in the form of staff time and attention. Similarly, Mabunda (2014) observed that, partnerships in policing are not always implemented with immediate success. For instance, in the case of police-community partnerships to control crime, problems usually emanates from both the police and the community involved, particularly in the implementation process of the initiative (Robinson, 2003). On the part of the police, the absence of strong leadership and encouragement may have an impact on partnerships in policing practices (Robinson, 2003). Police may also be reluctant to make partnerships in policing a priority (Segrave & Ratcliffe, 2004). This is the situation in Nigeria, as the police continue to work independently of the community in identifying and solving problems (Umar & Bappi, 2014). On the side of the community where informal police structure (IPS) thrive such as the vigilantes, members may be reluctant to seek and develop a sustainable partnership with law enforcement (Long et al., 2002), because of the lack of trust between them and the police. Also, this is largely due to police dominance as crime control experts, which manifest greatly in the failure to share information with members of the community or IPS in regard to their safety (Umar & Bappi, 2014).

Prominently, scholars have identified lack of trust as one of the major factors inhibiting effective partnership in policing (Mabunda, 2014). For instance, the police do not trust members of the IPS or vigilantes to the level of working with them; talk less of sharing classified information with them in regard to public safety. In some parts of South Africa for instance, the police are seen to be socially isolated from the community they serve. One of the reasons for this social isolation is the rising level of crime and the lack of strategy to fight it successfully (Fox et al., 1998). In Nigeria, the case is not different as most vigilante groups are regarded as people who aid criminal activities because of some incidences of nefarious activities reported against them (Nigeriafirst.org, 2003; Ikoh, 2013). Ironically, the police too is not spared of the same accusation as many members of the public usually perceive them as collaborators in criminal activities against the very public they are mandated to serve. As a result of this, where officers perceive disrespect and distrust generally, they are unlikely to support partnerships and have less favourable attitudes towards them (Novak & Alarid, 2003).

Another challenge is a lack of sufficient resources. On this issue, Janneta and Lachman (2011) observed that, perhaps the greatest challenge to interagency partnerships is making them sustainable over time. Many partnerships fall prey to funding reductions, which limit the availability of the resources they need to fully participate in them. Funding cuts also limit the ability of police and informal crime control structures to deliver

resources that can reduce the likelihood of crime. Thus, each agency is forced to make difficult decisions, particularly when it comes to personnel, and struggle to use existing resources more efficiently. Similarly, Mabunda (2014) argued that, many police services around the world, is faced with lack of sufficient resources and personnel. In South Africa for example, the lack of resources is a source of frustration for police officers in attempts to control crime. In the United Kingdom, it constitutes a central battle ground in interagency conflicts (Crawford, 2003). Also, in Nigeria, it has become a serious problem to the level that it has opened up the security space for the emergence of all forms of informal police structures which in turn have generated issues of security governance (Nigeriafirst.org, 2003; Inyang & Abraham, 2013; Ikoh, 2013). Therefore, as argued by Homel (2004), if governments wish to promote partnerships successfully, they need to invest in time and resources in these partnerships; because where there is competition for resources, and conflict is generated between individual and organisational commitments, partnerships may be difficult to develop and maintain (Mabunda, 2014).

Furthermore, where there are legislative or policy constraints about, for example, information sharing and privacy issues, successful and sustainable partnerships are difficult (Mabunda, 2014). In Nigeria, the constitution only permits the establishment of Nigeria Police Force (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, CFRN, 1999). Apart from the NPF, no other police organization is allowed to be established by the Federation or any of the component parts (Olong, 2010; Inyang and Brown, 2011). This invariably imposes the statutory responsibility of; detection and prevention of crime, apprehending and prosecution of criminals, protection of lives and property of citizens, enforcement and maintenance of laws and order as well as ensuring free flow of traffic especially in cities on the NPF (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, CFRN, 1999). These statutory functions have guided policing activity within the country, without regards to any other methodology or informal groups (Inyang & Abraham, 2014). Therefore, the lack of legislative backing on other police structures particularly the IPS, has affected partnerships talk less of information sharing, since the NPF sees themselves as the only recognised security institution in-charge of internal security.

Also, lack of clear role hinders effective collaboration between the police and the informal crime control agencies. In many community-based partnerships in which law enforcement is involved, the police lack a clearly defined role, which leads to confusion and sometimes a failed partnership (Young et al., 2002). Law enforcement and informal crime control agencies might also be concerned with expanding police and vigilantes' scope of authority through partnership, a process sometimes known as "mission distortion" or "mission creep" (Parent & Snyder, 1999; Murphy & Lutze, 2009). This concern can be addressed only by clearly articulating what each agency will be doing: e.g., creating specific memoranda that explicitly lay out the goals and responsibilities for each division or each agency in the partnership (Janneta & Lachman, 2011).

In addition, the perceptions both institutions hold against each other does not encourage partnerships. For instance, the formal police institutions on the one hand, usually see the informal crime control structures as being inexperienced in crime management and control, and so working with them to control crime will mean working with inexperienced people who lack the training and professionalism in crime control. On the other hand, members of the informal police structure always believe that they do much of the work particularly in areas where there are perceived security gaps, and formal police institutions are unable to control the situation. Consequently, as long as the gap remains, the informal police institutions (vigilantes) in taking on the responsibilities of the formal criminal justice system, in effect, also take on the authority of the role. If the incident is isolated and short-lived, this will not carry any significant implications, but if the vigilantism is widespread and prolonged, it inevitably means that the vigilantes will co-opt the position of power that is normally the reserve of the criminal justice system. Thus, a sustained vigilante campaign will allow the perpetrators to access the power, authority and influence which are normally held by the police officers, judges, prison officers and probation officers (Silke, 2001). When much power is acquired, some vigilante groups will be loath to relinquish it quietly. Some groups can become increasingly extreme like the Bakassi Boys of south eastern Nigeria, who at a time, became so prominent in crime control, thereby relegating the Nigeria Police Force to the back in the eyes of Nigerians and foreigners alike who reside and do business in the country (Nigeriafirst.org, 2003; Inyang & Abraham, 2013; Ikoh, 2013).

Moreover, in recent past, a number of vigilante groups have gradually progressed into full-scale terrorist campaigns in which they have not simply continued to attack their original targets but have also turned to attacking the government and the security forces. This is not a new thing, as it has happened before in Israel in the 1980s and 1990s and in South Africa in the 1990s. So, it is not surprising. Even vigilantes who publicly advocate cooperation with the police can hold very negative and antagonistic views of local law enforcement agencies. This is because, many vigilantes believe they are doing the job which the police have failed to take on and this breeds resentment and mistrust (Silke, 2001). In situations like this, partnerships are difficult to establish in order to control crime. Even if it is successfully done, there is possibility for clashes to occur between the two institutions because of their differences in perceptions of each other.

Similarly, lack of mutual understanding or differences in orientation can lead to friction in partnership policing (Janneta & Lachman, 2011). These differences in orientation can be exacerbated by a history of mutual

mistrust. For instance, the police and vigilante groups might have a complicated history that stems from a lack of past collaboration, and these problems could create barriers to intelligence and information sharing. More so, they may be faced with conflicting agency goals (Murphy & Lutze, 2009). This can also result in conflicting ideas regarding how partnership policing should be done. In Nigeria, there is always disagreement between the NPF and the vigilante groups particularly on how justice is administered on suspected criminals. As observed by Nigeriafirst.org (2003), in most cases, the vigilante groups arbitrarily arrest offenders of the law and dispense their version of justice without recourse to the formal law enforcement agencies. This situation constantly put the formal security institutions particularly the NPF against these community established vigilante groups, and most times they clash openly thereby endangering the lives of people they were commissioned to protect (Inyang & Abraham, 2014). Apart from this, they also engage themselves in supremacy fights particularly on who should take the glory over apprehended criminals, or ability to check perpetual criminal activities that have affected the society for a long time. These observed conflicts between the NPF and the IPS definitely reduces the possibility of partnership between them to control crime. However, there is hope with the emergence of partnership between the military and civilian task force in the fight against insurgency in north-eastern Nigeria; and it is expected that this pattern of partnership in crime control will be replicated among other security institutions across the country.

### **Methodology**

Survey design was used for this study. Its choice was informed by the exploratory nature of the study, which required the collection of data through questionnaire and interview methods. Other secondary data were obtained through library materials and official records.

Kano metropolis is made up of eight local government areas, and all them were considered for the study. They are; Dala, Fagge, Gwale, Kano Municipal, Tarauni, Kumbotso, Nassarawa and Ungogo. Purposive sampling was used to select 8 police stations (one per L.G.A) for the administration of questionnaire to men of the NPF, and to also conduct in-depth interviews (IDIs) with the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) in-charge of the stations, in order to seek their opinion on partnership between formal and informal police institutions and the challenges of crime control in their areas of operation. Also, we visited community leaders in each of the selected local government areas for the study and obtained list of vigilante groups that supply security services within their domains. From the list obtained, we purposively selected one vigilante group per local government area considered for the study (in all, we had 8 vigilante groups). Their selection was based on recommendations given by the community leaders about their organization, particularly if they partner with the NPF in crime control, and such was confirmed from the DPOs in the selected L.G.As for the study before they were finally considered.

From the category of the NPF, we systematically selected 41 policemen from the staff duty roster available at each of the police stations chosen for the study. That is, each police station chosen for the study produced 41 policemen respectively for the administration of questionnaire. On the part of the vigilantes, 56 of their members were randomly selected for the administration of questionnaire too. Each of the vigilante group selected for the study has a leader that directs its activities. Those leaders were asked to provide list of their members indicating their status of educational attainment. From such list, vigilante members who had formal education at any level were purposively selected for the administration of questionnaire. The choice of members with any level of formal education was to help the researchers administer questionnaire to persons who have ability to read and write and at least understand what is required from them in the research instrument. This was necessary because majority of vigilante members are considered to be people with no formal education and at such administering questionnaire on persons with no level of formal education will amount to waste of time and resources. Therefore with this technique, we were able to identify more than fifteen (15) persons from each of the group who had formal education. Their names were deduced and arranged alphabetically with numbers assigned to them based on the vigilante group they belonged to. Systematic sampling was adopted to select from each group 'first-seven' names with even numbers for the administration of questionnaire. The choice of systemic sampling was to give every respondent on the list a fair chance to be selected, while the choice of seven (7) respondents from each group was to give a sense of equality in the number of respondents selected from each vigilante group for the study. Furthermore, eight (8) leaders from the selected vigilante groups (one per vigilante group) were purposively selected for In-depth Interview (IDI). In all, 400 respondents were used for this study (8 DPOs, 328 policemen, 64 members of vigilante groups, out of which 8 were leaders).

For data collection, the study made use of both quantitative and qualitative instruments. The quantitative instrument used was the questionnaire, while the qualitative instrument was the in-depth interview. Data collected from the respondents were analyzed using content analysis method for interview responses, simple percentages for data presentation in tables, while the chi-square statistical tool was used for test of formulated research hypotheses of the study.

**Data Analysis and Discussion**

This section deals with the presentation of data, testing of hypotheses and discussion of findings.

**Table 1.** Percentage distribution of respondents by data generating procedure.

Respondents	Copies of Questionnaire Administered	Percentage	Questionnaire Retrieved	Percentage
Formal Police	328	85.42	265	69.01
Informal Police	56	14.58	56	14.58
Total	384	100	321	83.59

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

The percentage distribution of respondents by data generating procedure is presented in Table 1. From the sample size derived for the study, 384 respondents were administered questionnaire. Out of the 384 respondents, members of the Nigeria Police Force described as Formal Police in the Table had the modal frequency in terms of questionnaire administered and retrieved. This is because, they were more in number than their counterparts in the informal police category (the vigilantes).

**Table 2.** Respondents' opinion on the challenges confronting partnership between formal and informal police institutions in their attempt to control crime in Kano metropolis (N = 321).

Questions	Responses	Frequency( N)	Percent (%)
One of the challenges confronting partnership between formal and informal police institutions is that the NPF regard the informal police structures as unprofessional without requisite training to control crime?	Yes	214	66.67
	No	107	33.33
Another challenge is that there is no legislation that provides for partnership between the two police institutions?	Yes	144	44.86
	No	177	55.14
Partnership is difficult to achieve because the two police institutions are working at cross purpose?	Yes	127	39.56
	No	194	60.44
Issues of disregard and disrespect to the command chain also hinder partnership between the two police institutions?	Yes	134	41.74
	No	187	58.26
The two police institutions do not trust the security services of each other, and so it hinders partnership between them to control crime?	Yes	112	34.89
	No	209	65.11

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

Data on respondents' opinion on the challenges confronting partnership between formal and informal police institutions in their attempt to control crime in Kano metropolis is presented in Table 2. Five questions were used as indicated in the Table to seek respondents' opinion on the issue. First, they were asked whether the unprofessional nature of the vigilantes particularly on the issue of having requisite training in security services affect their partnership with the NPF to control crime in Kano metropolis. In response, majority of respondents (66.67%) said Yes. This indicates that the unprofessional nature of the vigilantes particularly in the area of training, do affect partnership with the NPF in their bid to control crime in Kano metropolis.

Second, respondents were asked whether lack of legislative provisions on partnership policing affects their working relationship to control crime in Kano metropolis. In response, majority of respondents (55.14%) said No. This indicates that, lack of legislation is no challenge to partnership between formal and informal police institutions in crime control.

Third, respondents were asked whether the issue of working at cross purpose makes it difficult to achieve partnership between the two police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis. In response, majority (60.44%) said No. This implies that, they do not regard the issue of working at cross purpose as a challenge to partnership in crime control.

Fourth, respondents view was sought on whether the issue of insubordination among members of the two police institutions, also hinder their partnership in crime control? In response, majority of them (58.26%) said No. This indicates that, there may be issues of disregard or disrespect among personnel of the two police institutions, but it does not stop their partnership to control crime.

Lastly, respondents were asked whether there are issues of mistrust between them which hinders their attempt to partner and control crime in Kano metropolis. In response, majority of them (65.11%) said No. This implies that the two police institutions trust the security services of each other to the point of partnering to control crime in the metropolis.

**Test of Hypotheses**

In this study, six hypotheses were formulated. This section tests the six hypotheses, using data collected in the course of the study.

**Hypothesis One**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a significant relationship between partnership of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis.

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between partnership of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis.

**Table 3.** Category of Respondents (Cross tabulation).

	Category of Respondents		Total
	FORMAL POLICE	INFORMAL POLICE	
Partnership between formal and informal police institutions assist in crime control?	NO	31	32
	YES	234	289
Total	265	56	321

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

**Table 4.** Chi-Square Tests.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.061a	1	0.024		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	4.017	1	0.045		
Likelihood Ratio	6.971	1	0.008		
Fisher's Exact Test				0.025	0.013
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.045	1	0.025		
N of Valid Cases	321				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.58.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Decision**

From the result obtained:  $\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = 5.061, p = .025$ , the p-value was less than .05. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis which states that, there is a significant relationship between partnership of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis was accepted.

**Hypothesis Two**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a significant relationship between lack of professional training on the part of informal police structures and their partnership with formal police institution to control crime in Kano metropolis.

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between lack of professional training on the part of informal police structures and their partnership with formal police institution to control crime in Kano metropolis.

**Table 5.** Category of Respondents (Cross Tabulation).

		One of the challenges confronting partnership between formal and informal police institutions is that the NPF regard the informal police structures as unprofessional without requisite training to control crime?		Total
		NO	YES	
Category of Respondents	FORMAL POLICE	81	184	265
	INFORMAL POLICE	26	30	56
Total		107	214	321

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

**Table 6.** Chi-Square Tests.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.235 <sup>a</sup>	1	0.022		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	4.545	1	0.033		
Likelihood Ratio	5.036	1	0.025		
Fisher's Exact Test				0.029	0.018
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.218	1	0.022		
N of Valid Cases	321				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 18.67.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Decision**

From the result obtained:  $\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = 5.235, p = .029$ , the p-value was less than .05. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis which states that, there is a significant relationship between lack of professional training on the part of informal police structures and their partnership with formal police institution to control crime in Kano metropolis was accepted.

**Hypothesis Three**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a significant relationship between lack of legislation and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between lack of legislation and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

**Table 7.** Category of Respondents (Cross Tabulation).

		Another challenge is that there is no legislation that provides for partnership between the two police institutions?		Total
		NO	YES	
Category of Respondents	FORMAL POLICE	141	124	265
	INFORMAL POLICE	36	20	56
Total		177	144	321

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

**Table 8.** Chi-Square Tests.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.294 <sup>a</sup>	1	0.130		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	1.868	1	0.172		
Likelihood Ratio	2.329	1	0.127		
Fisher's Exact Test				0.141	0.085
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.287	1	0.130		
N of Valid Cases	321				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 25.12.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Decision**

From the result obtained:  $\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = 2.294, p = .141$ , the p-value was greater than .05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between lack of legislation and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

**Hypothesis Four**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a significant relationship between the issue of working at cross purpose and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the issue of working at cross purpose and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

**Table 9.** Category of Respondents (Cross Tabulation).

		Partnership is difficult to achieve because the two police institutions are working at cross purpose?		Total
		NO	YES	
Category of Respondents	FORMAL POLICE	163	102	265
	INFORMAL POLICE	31	25	56
Total		194	127	321

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

**Table 10.** Chi-Square Tests.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	0.732 <sup>a</sup>	1	0.392		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	0.497	1	0.481		
Likelihood Ratio	0.725	1	0.395		
Fisher's Exact Test				0.452	0.239
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.730	1	0.393		
N of Valid Cases	321				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 22.16.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Decision**

From the result obtained:  $\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = .732, p = .452$ , the p-value was greater than .05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between the issue of working at cross purpose with different orientation and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis was accepted.

**Hypothesis Five**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a significant relationship between the issue of insubordination among members of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis.

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the issue of insubordination among members of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis.

**Table 11.** Category of Respondents (Cross Tabulation).

		Issues of disregard and disrespect to the command chain also hinder partnership between the two police institutions?		Total
		NO	YES	
Category of Respondents	FORMAL POLICE	158	107	265
	INFORMAL POLICE	29	27	56
Total		187	134	321

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

**Table 12.** Chi-Square Tests.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.168 <sup>a</sup>	1	0.280		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.868	1	0.352		
Likelihood Ratio	1.157	1	0.282		
Fisher's Exact Test				0.299	0.176
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.164	1	0.281		
N of Valid Cases	321				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 23.38.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Decision**

From the result obtained:  $\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = 1.168, p = .299$ , the p-value was greater than .05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between the issue of insubordination among members of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis was accepted.

**Hypothesis Six**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a significant relationship between the issue of trust in each other's security services and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the issue of trust in each other's security services and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis.

**Table 13.** Category of Respondents (Cross Tabulation).

		The two police institutions do not trust the security services of each other, and so it hinders partnership between them to control crime?		Total
		NO	YES	
Category of Respondents	FORMAL POLICE	172	93	265
	INFORMAL POLICE	37	19	56
Total		209	112	321

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2018

**Table 14.** Chi-Square Tests.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	0.028 <sup>a</sup>	1	0.868		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	0.000	1	0.990		
Likelihood Ratio	0.028	1	0.868		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	0.499
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.028	1	0.868		
N of Valid Cases	321				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 19.54.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Decision**

From the result obtained:  $\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = .028$ ,  $p = 1.000$ , the p-value was greater than .05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between the issue of trust in each other's security services and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to crime control in Kano metropolis was accepted.

**Discussion of Findings**

The presentation, analysis and testing of research hypotheses made use of data collected from the field. The holistic approach to data formed the basis of the discussion of major findings made in the course of investigation. This involves the analyses of research hypotheses, and other salient discoveries which came into limelight during personal observation in the field and when questionnaire and interview responses were analyzed.

From the analysis of hypothesis one, the statistical decision revealed that there is significant relationship between partnership of formal and informal police institutions and crime control in Kano metropolis. This means that, partnership between the NPF and vigilantes in Kano metropolis actually helps in crime control. From the IDI session, there were testimonies to confirm this finding. In fact, a DPO of Dala local government area categorically said that, "if not for the cooperation and assistance of the vigilantes, half of the cases we have recorded in Dala, would have gone undetected". This aligns with the view of Oppler (1997) in the literature section of the study, that partnership policing seems to be the most effective and fruitful way to create a safer environment.

Result from test of hypothesis two accepted the alternate hypothesis which states that: there is a significant relationship between lack of professionalism on the part of informal police structures and their partnership with formal police institution to control crime in Kano metropolis. This implies that, the unprofessional nature of vigilantes in Kano metropolis actually affect their partnership with the NPF to control crime. This finding aligns with complaints from some DPOs during the IDI session, who sees most vigilante members as illiterates, as well as people who are not professionally trained to carry out obligations of crime control. As narrated by one of them, in some crime situations, the police do not partner the vigilantes because they may not know how to go about it, or they may eventually mismanage the situation to the advantage of the criminals (*excerpt from an IDI session with the DPO of Police, Gwale L.G.A, June 2018*)

Result from test of hypothesis three rejected the alternate hypothesis, while the null hypothesis was accepted. The null hypothesis reads: there is no significant relationship between lack of legislation and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis. This implies that, lack of law to back-up partnership policing, does not affect the working relationship between the NPF and vigilantes to control crime in Kano metropolis. This was confirmed by respondents during the IDI session, except the leader of vigilante group from Ungogo L.G.A who complained that lack of legislative backing affect the policing style of the vigilantes by making them totally dependent on the NPF before taking certain decisions on crime control. In his words:

Unavailability of legislative backing affect our style of policing, thereby making us totally dependent on the NPF before we can function in some areas of security need. This is not too good, because you will always have to wait for the approval or response from the NPF before you can wade into certain crime situations to put them under control.

This argument buttresses the opinion of Mabunda (2014) in the literature section of the study that: where there are legislative or policy constraints, successful and sustainable partnerships are difficult.

Finding from the test of hypothesis four also rejected the alternate hypothesis, and accepted the null hypothesis which states that: there is no significant relationship between the issue of working at cross purpose and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis. This implies that, though the vigilante groups do not have the same orientation with the NPF, and may be working at cross purpose, it does not affect their partnership to control crime in Kano metropolis. This finding negates popular observation in the literature section of this study that: lack of mutual understanding or differences in orientation can lead to friction in partnership policing (Janneta & Lachman, 2011); or it can create barriers to intelligence and information sharing, and as well lead to conflicting agency goals (Murphy & Lutze, 2009). In Kano metropolis, this is different, as majority of respondents from both formal and informal police institutions agreed that they partner to control crime irrespective of their differences in orientation. Personal observation also reveals so, particularly in Dala local government area where we witnessed serious collaboration to control crime between the two groups without any form of friction or disharmony.

Similarly, result from hypothesis five accepted the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ), while the alternate hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) was rejected. The accepted hypothesis reads: there is no significant relationship between the issue of insubordination among members of formal and informal police institutions and control crime in Kano metropolis. This implies that members of both police institutions in Kano metropolis show respect to the command chain and as well regard each other while they are in the field together to control crime in the metropolis. In spite of this result, there were few complaints from the side of the vigilante group. Prominent among these complaints was the issue of disregard and harassment of vigilante members by policemen of lower ranks. As narrated by a member of the vigilante group in Taruni L.G.A:

Senior officers of the NPF do accord us respect and regard while partnering with them to control crime. However, the junior ones particularly within the rank of constables in some occasions do harass and disregard us. They see us as not being qualified to do our jobs, or that we do not know what we are doing at all. So, in some instances, cooperation is difficult to achieve in crime control.

This when probed further, appeared to be true, and we discovered is that, such incidences has to do with individual problem, not that of an institution. In fact, the frequency of its occurrence was minimal compared to the general harmonious relationship exhibited by the two groups in attempt to partner and control crime in the metropolis.

Lastly, result from the test of hypothesis six rejected the alternate hypothesis while the null hypothesis was accepted. The accepted hypothesis reads: there is no significant relationship between the issue of trust in each other's security services and partnership of formal and informal police institutions to control crime in Kano metropolis. This implies that, both police institutions trust the security services of each other in their bid to partner and control crime in Kano metropolis. Personal observations during the fieldwork exercise, affirmed this result, particularly in some local government areas where the vigilante groups on their own arrested and handed over suspects of crime to the NPF; and in cases where the police contacted them to do so. This was witnessed in Dala, Gwale, and Kutmboso L.G.As. The apparent collaboration between the two security institutions showed that there is a level of trust in the security services of each other. Although, they were still fears and show of concern on the side of the NPF, due to the popular perception about the unprofessional nature of the vigilantes and the consequent effect it has on their quest to manage and control crime situations, it did not hinder their partnership in crime control. This finding negates the popular opinion as stated in the literature section of this work by Mabunda (2014) that: lack of trust is one of the major factors inhibiting effective partnership in policing. However, the only areas of concern in Kano metropolis that needs to be addressed when it comes to the issue of trust are; matters of arrest and subsequent prosecution of some suspects in the courts of law by the NPF, and the issue of jungle justice on the side of the vigilantes. This is so because, even when we had majority of respondents say they do trust the security services of each other, there were complaints from few of them, particularly from the category of the vigilantes who argued that;

Most times after putting in much effort to arrest suspects of crime and hand them over to the police, the police in return, will just release them back to the society in less than 24hrs without prosecution, thereby giving the criminals morale and bragging rights over us.

On the side of the police, observations were made over the attitude of some vigilantes in handling crime suspects. The police on this issue, expressed concern over the unprofessional nature of vigilantes, together with their lack of training in crime management and control, which according to them, may lead to excessive reaction towards suspects of crime in attempts to control crime. This, if left unchecked, may definitely lead to mistrust between the two police institutions as observed in the literature section of this study by Fox et al (1998), as well as Novak and Alarid (2003).

### Conclusion

The study was undertaken to examine partnership between formal and informal police institutions in Kano metropolis, as well as the challenges confronting them in crime control. This was achieved through collaboration with some specific objectives, which motives were; to find out if partnership between formal and informal police institutions assist in control crime in Kano metropolis; to find out the main challenges inhibiting effective partnership between formal and informal police institutions in their attempts to control crime in Kano metropolis; and to make useful suggestions on what should be done to ensure effective partnership between formal and informal police institutions in Kano metropolis, and as well curb the various challenges they face in working together to control crime.

Findings of the study were imperative to the conclusions that: partnership between formal and informal police institutions in Kano metropolis assist in crime control; and the main challenge confronting partnership between the two police institutions, is the issue of unprofessionalism on the part of the vigilantes, particularly in the area of crime management and control.

Therefore, the study recommended that, local government in the metropolis should partner the NPF in training members of vigilante groups that supply security services within their domains. Such training should be on basic skills in crime management and control. If this is done effectively, it will assist significantly in crime control in the metropolis.

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