

An Investigation into the challenges and roles of the Community Policing
Forum with regard to the Crime Prevention in Limpopo Province, Vhembe
District: A Case study of Makhado Ward 1

BY

RATSHILI NYADZANI BENEDICT

(9530448)

MINI DISSERTATION

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
In the
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
At the
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Supervisor: Prof MP Khwashaba

UNIVEN LIBRARY

Library Item : 20130758



2012

ABSTRACT

This research is concerned with the perceptions of police accountability in the Makhado Ward 1 Policing Area. Community Police Forums are a means to facilitate the partnership between the police and the community and to engage in joint problem identification and consultative crime prevention programmes. The Community Police Forums are consultative forums designed to permit communities to make their policing concerns known to the police and to provide a vehicle for holding the police accountable to them (Pelsler et. al., 2002: 13).

The study uses both quantitative and qualitative techniques for data collection and analysis. Qualitative techniques were mostly used in that they provide the researcher with an understanding of experiences and problems faced by Community policing Forum. Random and purposive samplings were used for the selection of sample for the study. Both primary and secondary data were used for analysis in this study. A questionnaire, consisting of structured questions based upon the functions and processes of the CPF's, has been used in the collection of the data.

Statements based on the functions and processes of the CPF's have been prepared and put forward with the aim of obtaining the views and opinions of the South African Police Service officials and the community representatives of the Community Police Forums in Makhado Ward 1 Policing Area.

The findings reveal disagreements between the police and the community regarding certain aspects of the functions and processes of the Community Police Forums. The responses of the research participants to the items in the questionnaire tended to be influenced by whether the respondent was a member of the community or a member of the police. The community members tend to be more concerned about their oversight role over the police, whilst the police tend

to be more protective of their operational independence and organizational control. For the democratization of the police and for effective crime control to be realized, there needs to be agreement between the community and the police members regarding the functions and processes of the Community Police Forums.

The suggested recommendations are based on the findings of the study, which should be taken seriously if there is a desire to ensure the democratization of the police and to realize the effective control of crime.