

**EFFECTS OF DEPLOYING POLICE OFFICERS IN SUPPORT
DUTIES ON POLICE OPERATIONS AT KENYA POLICE SERVICE
HEADQUARTERS IN NAIROBI, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY
KENYA**

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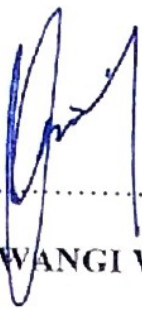
**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
MASTERS OF ARTS IN LEADERSHIP AND SECURITY
MANAGEMENT**

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY



DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented in any other university for any award.

Sign.  Date 20th JULY 2017
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This research project has been submitted to the graduate school for registration with my approval as university supervisor.

Name of Supervisor: **Dr. Ann Merecia Sirera**

Signature 

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ABSTRACT

Many police officers perform duties significantly different from the core functions despite understaffing in the police organizations in many countries. However few studies have been conducted to examine how deploying police officers in non-core functions may affect police operations. Using the Action theory which builds on the grand theory of Lewin this study sought to determine the effects of deploying police officers in support duties on police operations at Kenya Police Service Headquarters, Nairobi, Nairobi County Kenya. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The target population of the study was all officers at the Kenya Police Service Headquarters (943) as well as the civilians in the Nairobi Central Business District. A sample of 281 officers was selected using stratified sampling method and 50 civilians were randomly sampled to participate in the study giving the total sample size of 331 respondents. Questionnaires and interviews were the main methods used to collect data from participants. Secondary data from official Police documents on deployment was also used to supplement primary data. The data was then coded and analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics of percentages, means, standard deviations and frequencies. The qualitative data was organized into themes and analyzed thematically. The findings of the quantitative and qualitative data were triangulated to provide a thick description of the study. From the findings, the deployment in support duties was found to affect maintenance of law and order to a great extent with a high mean of 4.3 on a 5 point likert. Its' impact on preservation of peace was also great as it was rated at a mean of 4.1 on the 5 point likert scale. Deployment to support duties of some officers was affirmed to increase the workload for those left with the responsibility of protecting life and property with a high mean of 4.4. Majority of the civilians (88.4%) also affirmed that the core function of protecting life and property is negatively affected by the deployment of some officers in support duties. There was little evidence (mean of 2.4) on existence of any deployment criterion prioritizing on core functions. Some of the suggested strategies for deploying officers into support duties include: deploying officers in line with their competence/areas of specialization/skills; ensuring sufficient number of officers remain in the core duties; establishing a specific unit for support duties; outsourcing some of the support services from other agencies among others. From the findings, it was inferred that the proportion of the police officers in support duties is quite significant given the nature of the service. The deployment reduces the number of the police officers supposed to tackle core functions eventually resulting into overworking of the officers in the function hence reducing their effectiveness. Based on the findings he study recommends among others, that the National Police Service should consider outsourcing the support services from other agents such as private security firms. They may also consider establishing a special unit that will be charged with the sole responsibility of attending to the support duties.