

**A PAPER PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSIONER
OF POLICE, KEBBI STATE COMMAND, CP BELLO M.
SANI ON THE ROLE OF POLICE IN COMMUNITY
POLICING FOR GRASSROOTS SECURITY IN KEBBI
STATE, DURING THE 1ST KEBBI STATE SECURITY
SUMMIT, AT THE PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET HALL,
BIRNIN KEBBI, ON 27TH AUGUST, 2025.**

- Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kebbi State, comrade Dr Nasir Idris Kauran Gwandu;
- Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Kebbi State, Sen. Umar Abubakar Tafidan Kabi;
- The Speaker, Kebbi State House of Assembly;
- The Chief Judge, Kebbi State;
- The SSG, Kebbi State;
- Members of National Assembly here present;
- Members of the Federal Executive council;
- Members of the state executive council;
- Your Highnesses, the Emirs of Gwandu, Argungu, Yauri and acting Emir of Zuru;
- Members of the Press;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;
- Good Morning.

I am highly delighted and honored to be invited to present a paper on the role of Police in community policing for grassroots security in Kebbi State at this

memorable occasion, that is, the first Kebbi State security summit.

Similarly, I want to use this opportunity to appreciate and commend the initiative, wisdom and proactive approach of the Kebbi Elders Consultative Forum for organizing this summit. This is because, there is no better time than now for a summit like this one to be held, considering the security challenges bedeviling the southern and northern parts of the state. It is our hope that the communiqué to be issued at the end of this summit will identify the root causes of the challenges and provide a sustainable and long-term solution to those challenges.

On 27th April, 2004, the Federal Government has approved the adoption of community policing as a community based internal security management strategy to complement the Nigeria Police Force to allow the communities some levels of participation in policing their areas. These will relieve our needed manpower in other serious areas of policing.

The reasons for adopting the more proactive approach inherent in community policing are that, any Police organization that seek to serve democratic and humanitarian ideals must be transparent, fair, apolitical, accountable and responsive to public perceptions and expectations. Such policing is characterized by the notion of “police service” rather than “police force” where the most significant benchmarks of performance are public satisfaction, trust and confidence.

Similarly, there exist a wealth of evidence to confirm that the traditional approach to policing, which tend to be reactive and exclusively law-enforcement based, is not effective in preventing crime and anti-social behavior within the society. Further, a predominantly reactive policing style encourages an alienating police culture, whereby the police and public develop a 'them and us' mentality towards one another. The inevitable outcome is that the police image suffers public confidence declines, and citizen withdraws their voluntary support and cooperation.

CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY POLICING: Community policing is a philosophy to guide Police management styles, policies, strategies and operational performance. Key principles are that community policing:

- Rallies upon active partnership between the Police and the community;
- Ensures the Police view their primary role as the provision of quality service to the community;
- Entails that the Police adopt problem solving approach to their work;
- Requires that the Police involve the community in deciding policing priorities;

Community policing therefore embraces the following values:

- Transparency and openness in relation to activates and relationships within and outside the Police organization;
- Demonstrable commitment at all times to deliver the best possibly service;

- Training and empowerment of all Police personnel to make appropriate decisions and thereby expedite delivery of quality service;
- Willingness to seek, listen to and act upon public opinion relating to policing priorities;
- Accountability, where the Police are properly answerable for what they do, and citizens with genuine sense of grievance against the Police have and effective means of redress.

ROLES OF THE POLICE IN COMMUNITY POLICING FOR GRASSROOT SECURITY IN KEBBI STATE: The community policing model being implemented in Nigeria has been adopted to suit the peculiarities of the country and the various communities. The Commissioner of Police, Area Commanders and Divisional Police Officers in Kebbi State, are the strategic actors in the implementation process, while credible and respected community leaders and the citizens shall be mobilized to play specific and critical roles.

In view of the forgoing, the Police are requested to:

- i. Galvanize and sensitize the communities at all levels on the community policing concept and their roles;
- ii. Organize the community into community policing committees;
- iii. Facilitate the recruitment process of the community policing officers in conjunction with community policing committees; and
- iv. Give directive to the community policing Officers in their jurisdiction.

In achieving the above mentioned roles, the Kebbi State Police Command has been sensitizing members of the public on the importance of community policing concept and their roles.

Similarly, in 2020, Five Community Policing Committees have been inaugurated by the Kebbi State Police Command with the assistance of the Kebbi State Government where credible and respectable community leaders were carefully selected. These committees are:

- i.** State community Policing advisory committee;
- ii.** State community Policing committee;
- iii.** Area Command community Policing committee;
- iv.** Local Government community policing committee; and
- v.** Divisional community policing committee.

The members of the community policing committees have the following roles:

- i.** To assist the Police in the identification, vetting and selection process of community policing officers within their communities;
- ii.** Help identify security threats in their communities and work with the local Police in evolving approaches towards addressing them; and
- iii.** Advice on general security issues as it affects their communities.

Consequently, in 2020 about three hundred and thirty six (336) special constables, 16 each from the 21 Local Government Areas of Kebbi State were successfully

selected, screened and trained at the Police training School, Farfaru, Sokoto, Sokoto State. After the completion of their training, they were posted back to their Local Government of origin with a view to assist the Police in the following:

- i.** Crime detection and prevention;
- ii.** Settle low level civil disputes and petty crimes;
- iii.** Criminal intelligence gathering and dissemination to the Local Police Officers;
- iv.** Deployment to complement the conventional Police in the patrol of the public space;
- v.** Sensitizing, reassuring and advising the public on public safety, crime prevention and security tips;
- vi.** Deal with minor offences and social vices; and
- vii.** Assist in traffic management and school safety duties.

At this juncture, I want to appeal to the Executive Governor Kebbi State, Comrade Dr Nasir Idris Kauran Gwandu to look into the possibility of reviving those committees and approve the recruitment and training of another batch of special constables with a view to replace the previous batch, who abandoned their beats due to nonpayment of allowances.

Notwithstanding the above mentioned challenges, it is imperative to reiterate that, the concept of community policing in Kebbi State is yielding positive result. This is because before there were incessant kidnapping, banditry and other related security challenges in many villages of Zuru and Yauri Local Government areas, where bandits in

their large numbers with sophisticated weapons usually infiltrate into the state, commit havoc and escape back to their hideouts in our neighboring states. But today, with the efforts, resilience and dedications of the combined team of security personnel, vigilantes, hunters, PCRC, Traditional and Religious leaders, NURTW, NARTO, commercial motorcyclist and civil society organizations, this became history. So far, businesses and farming activities are going on smoothly in those troubled areas without any hitch.

It is also pertinent to note that, on the 15th August, 2025 at about 1505hrs while on aggressive patrol around Dankade village of Ribah district, Danko/Wasagu LGA Kebbi State, a combined team of Policemen, vigilantes and hunters led by the Divisional Police Officer, Ribah had an encounter with the bandits. During a gun duel which lasted for hours, one Tukur Bello 'm' aged 26yrs of Kembawa village, Augie LGA of Kebbi State and Isyaka Abubakar 'm' aged 25yrs of Badun village, Gummi LGA of Zamfara state, who were kidnapped on the 9th August, 2025 at about 1400hrs, while, grazing their cows at Gairi forest in Zamfara State, were successfully rescued. The victims have been reunited with their family after treatment at a medical facility. This operation has demonstrated the importance of the implementation of the concept of community policing by the Kebbi State Police Command in the State.

Accordingly, the Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun Ph.D, NPM has graciously allocated four Armed Personnel Carriers recently to Kebbi State Police Command with a view to curtail the activities

of Lakurawa terror group operating in the northern part of the State, who usually crossover from the neighboring Niger and Benin Republic, and causes wanton loss of lives of security personnel, inhabitants and massive destruction of property.

At this juncture, I want to express our profound gratitude to the Executive Governor of Kebbi State, Comrade Dr Nasir Idris Kauran Gwandu for his kind gesture, encouragement and assistance as well as swift response to security matters whenever contacted. Your Excellency sir, your prompt response has demonstrated the importance you attached to the issue of security of lives and property of the good people of Kebbi State.

In the same vein, I want to appreciate our Royal Fathers and Religious Leaders for their prayers and advice to us while serving the peace loving people of the State.

Thank you very much for listening and may Allah bless you all.