



Community Empowerment for Progress Organization

SOUTH SUDAN POLICE SERVICES



PERFORMANCE

During 2014 Christmas & New Year's 2015 Celebrations

Executive Summary:

This is an oversight report on police performance during Christmas and New Year's 2015 celebrations. It examines how the organized forces offer protection to the civil population and their property at the eve and during the celebrations. It has been noted that the police offers credible potential security to the citizens. However, there are also criminal minded persons who take cover in Police and arm uniforms to execute their criminal acts.

Strategies for responding to crimes and tracking criminals who take cover in uniform needs to be devised to improve citizen's protection.

Introduction

This report presents oversight perspective on performance of South Sudan National Police Service in providing protection to the civil population during 2014 Christmas and New Year 2015 celebrations.

It is essential to evaluate the performance of National Police Service from oversight point of view to improve protection in religious, national and international events' celebration. CEPO opted to evaluate the police performance in 2014 Christmas and New Year 2015 celebrations.

Methodology

This public perception survey was conducted using participatory and inclusive methods. The methods were designed to capture information on Police service during festivals such as Christmas and New year's celebrations). The methods applied were;

Deployment of observers:

20 observers were deployed to each state capital to observe the performance of the police. The team of the observers filled standard developed questionnaire and checklists which were intended to gather information for analysis.

Media articles Review:

Review of media articles in the print, broadcast and electronic media was done with the purpose of generating information. 5 media articles were reviewed and information was generated and compiled for this report.

Intensive Individual Interviews (face-to face/one to one interview)

The intensive one to one interviews were conducted with key persons who have engagement in town at specific night hours. The categories of persons interviewed were commercial motorbike

riders, women selling in night markets, traders, residential, hotel staffs, and street children. Two thousand respondents were interviewed in this perception survey.

Rational

To examine police performance during 2014 Christmas and the new-year celebrations is paramount for public knowledge. The public needs to know more about police performance so that they will develop true confidence in the police. CEPO intends to conduct this public assessment as oversight evaluation of the police performance.

Objectives:

- a) To learn about the police performance in providing security and protection to the citizens during 2014 Christmas New Year's celebration.
- b) To give recommendations for better performance of police service during provision of security and protection in future celebrations.

Key findings

- a) On 25th December 2014 and 1st January 2015 celebrations, the police were viewed by the citizens as law enforcement agents who offer better protection and security in the year 2014 compared with 2011, 2012 and 2013. Out of 5 persons, 3 admitted that the police have done good job in providing protection and security in 2014 Christmas and new year 2015.
- b) The establishment of special court of law for trying police and SPLA army who committed offences during 1st January 2015 night shooting was viewed by the citizens as remarkable.
- c) The strong command from the top leadership of the police and army to their private officers to respect human rights is influential in disciplining the officers.
- d) The public phone call initiative (777) has made citizens' –police communication effective. It also covers emergency situation of health during night hours.
- e) Some private police and army officers were involved in conducting looting and robbery of citizens during house to houses search for weapons.
- f) The deployment plan is not comprehensive due to limitation in logistics such as vehicles for mobility.
- g) Police under influence of alcohol and some who are criminal-minded got engaged in looting and robbery either during night hours or during house-to-house search for arms in Juba and other parts of the country.
- h) The patrolling police require close supervision team during night hour's operations.
- i) The public is less informed about the established police emergency court of law for trying police officers who have committed offences.

- j) The citizens appreciate the idea of the established police emergency court of law for dealing with the police officer who commits offences.

Key Recommendations

- a) There is need for SSNPS to improve the deployment strategy of the police during Christmas and New Year celebrations within the residential areas that are well known for criminal activities in each state capital.
- b) There is need for proper system of naming roads within the residential areas for easier police access to the location of crimes.
- c) The SSNPS top leadership should maintain consistency in passing strong message against police officers who violate human rights and those who commit offences against the civilians.
- d) The police initiative of 777 requires proper attendance for proper functioning for the sake of winning citizen's trust and confidence o the police services
- e) There is need to equip 777 police initiative with ambulance vehicles and some medical personnel for better medical services provision to the citizens during night hours.
- f) The police have to improve public relation with the citizens by creating radio program for the police such as **"Police –Citizens Dialogue"**
- g) CEPO is ready to fund the radio program **"Police –Citizens Dialogue"** as a strategy of increasing communication between police and the citizens.
- h) CEPO will be seeking official approval from SSNPS for administering the public opinion polling as a community feedback strategy on police performance.

The content of the citizens' perceptions

1. Citizens' opinions/views

Majority of the citizens describe the role played by the police during providing protection in Christmas and New Year celebrations as remarkable and reasonably professional. It is first event with reasonable protection from police services. Quoting from a youth who was drunk and met police officers in Juba ***"South Sudan police service have first time demonstrated to me that they are police for civilians' protection not police for civilians' mistreatment. I met some police officers at 2: 00am when I was drunk. The officers peacefully escorted me home. They ensured that I entered our compound safely. None of them attempted with my pocket, phone or beating me. Those are police officers with friendly heart for service provision. I wished all police officers are like them"***. Some citizens have cited examples of the good work the police are doing as below:

1. Police officers taking care of civilians who are either drunk or who have accident during fighting.

2. Police officers involved in escorting civilians to their homes.
3. Police officers involved in tracking criminals during mid-night hours in some residential areas.

The citizens said they have seen police officers who behave gentle and are committed for the protection of the civilians. The protection to the civilians during Christmas and New Year celebrations is viewed as a good moved by the citizens. Below are the indicators showing the citizen's appreciation of the services offered by the police.

- **26.12. 2014.Juba:** Dr. Abraham Adut in Juba Teaching Hospital says most of the patients were brought by the police and they don't have relatives who accompanied them.
- **29.12.2014. Yei:** Bishop Ladu advised citizens not to be afraid of the security organs because they protect lives and property of South Sudanese, urging them to help and cooperate with the forces. He advised citizens to behave well to avoid falling into problems with the security organs, asking the government to continue protecting lives and property of citizens.

Some civilians raised concerns on some police officers who were involved in robbing civilians during the Christmas and New Year celebrations. The common cases of robbery registered in Juba around Gudele blocks where seven phones and money were confiscated by persons in Police and military uniforms during night hours and house to house search for arms prior 25th Dec. 2014. In some locations such as Yei, Aweil, Rumbek, Bor and Nimule cases of harassment and intimidation of civilians by persons in police and military uniforms were registered. But in these locations, there were criminals who took advantage of dressing in police and military uniforms. Some civilians in Juba and Rumbek expressed disappointment of not accessing police easily during the celebration days in Yei, the civilians were told that all the police officers were on duty. No police officer at the station to respond to their demand.

1. Police Performance

From the citizens perceptions, the performance of the private officers was somehow fine because of the strong consistent statements of warning from the top leaders such as Inspector General of police and Deputy Inspector General. Among the warning statements, majority of the citizens were able to quote the IGP message during the police officers graduation in Dr. John Garang Police Academy in Rajaf West as on 22nd 12.2014. The warning statements are as follow;

“22.12.2014. Juba: In Dr John Garang Police Academy in Rajaf West during police graduation. The Inspector General of Police has told graduates of a police training course to enforce respect for human rights. Some policemen are involved in violating human rights. “Human right is not something brought from another country, but it is a basic thing that can make people to live in security without any problems. It is a sign of respect. This is the rights of

everybody. If everyone can feel that he has got his or her rights, what can make him or her to cause problems?” “Like now we have some of our policemen; when they see a woman they want to harass her, when they see a lady they want to harass her, sometimes they beat them. Who among you doesn’t have relatives from the civilians? Who among you can say that all his relatives are police or soldiers?”

Majority of the citizens felt it has influenced the performance of the police during the Christmas and New Year celebration. A woman who expressed her opinion said ***“During the time of the peace the police officers were harass, aggressive and like to mistreat the civilian during the Christmas and New Year but now in the violent situation the police are becoming real police that tried to fulfill their constitutional mandate”***

2. Success stories “Good move for Reform”

The establishment of the police emergency court of law and the arrest of over 100 police officers and soldiers for violating the orders that no gun shots during the new year’s celebration was remarkable and it demonstrate that the leadership of the police and army are justifying to the civilians that they are accountable to civilians governance system. Further, the public declaration by the army (SPLA) spokesperson that those arrested over the night shooting during the New Year’s 2015 celebration will face the court of law is great news to the citizen.

3. Police 777 initiative

The method used by 777 initiative is described as a better intervention of the police by the citizens. This model is unique and effective that has brought multi-stakeholders (government, development partners and private sector) together for provision of safety, protection and security for the citizens. Kenya national in Juba residential area of Munuki block B said “if he is asked to vote for South Sudan membership for joining East Africa community, he will be voting for South Sudan to joint East Africa community simply because police 777 initiative. It is very effective initiative in combating crimes during night hours.” He said “police 777 initiative is the really police unit that is trying to become friendly to the citizens”.

Besides the appreciations for the police 777 initiative, some shortcomings were observed which include;

- i) Limited knowledge of the residential areas by 777 police.
- j) Late or no response to a request by citizens.
- k) Some police officers of 777 initiative do get drunk during duty hours and this often makes them to misbehave by confiscating phones, favoring tribe mate or negotiates for a bribe to compromise with the criminal.

- l) Isolated cases of some members of the police 777 initiative involved in sexual harassment of women and some of them treat a woman as automatic suspect of offence during the night hours.

These shortcomings are attributed to the fact that;

- a) Majority of Juba City roads are not yet named and given clear information for easy access and identification of crime scene.
- b) Limited number of vehicles for the police 777 initiative for effective coverage of Juba City.
- c) Absence of gender mainstreaming in the police 777 initiatives.
- d) Limited or absence of effective supervision of the officer during performing duties
- e) Lack of motivation of the members of police 777 initiative.

4. Areas of improvement

The leadership of the police and army requires to double efforts in the future similar events across the country. Through observation the following concerns were realized;

- a) The police patrolling teams being selective in responding to cases across Juba, The remote areas such as Gudele block 7,8, and 9, Manga Ten, Gabat, Gumbo, Jebel Dinka and Lokwilili extension around Juba they are less interested in responding immediately.
- b) Training of police officers within the patrolling team about names and direction of residential areas of Juba.
- c) Sensitizing civilians on how to communicate to the police patrolling team of 777.
- d) There is need for supervision during house-to-house search of guns.
- e) Effective strategies for tracking persons in uniform especially during night hours need to be designed for the police, military and national security leadership. It was realized that some criminal mind individuals are being Ghost security personnel during night hours. They often accomplish their criminal acts of robbing and looting of civilians and such acts give the citizens an opportunity of naming and shaming the security organs.
- f) The means of communications needs to be strengthened with the civilians' population. The system of 777 is effective but it requires to be strengthened in the manner that each residential area is given one fixed team of 777.

Key Recommendations

- a) There is need for SSNPS to improve the deployment strategy of the police during Christmas and New Year celebrations within the residential areas that are well known for criminals' activities in each state capital.
- b) There is need for proper system of naming roads within the residential areas for easier police access to the location of crimes occurrence.

- c) The SSNPS top leadership should maintain consistence in passing strong message against police officers who violate human rights and commit offences against the civilians.
- d) The police initiative of 777 requires proper attendance for proper functioning for the sake of winning citizens trust and confidence o the police services.
- e) There is need to equip 777 police initiative with ambulance vehicles and some medical personnel for better medical services provision to the citizens during night hours.
- f) The police has to improve public relation with the citizens by creating radio program for the police such as **“Police –Citizens Dialogue”**
- g) CEPO is ready to fund the radio program **“Police –Citizens Dialogue”** as a strategy of increasing communication between police and the citizens
- h) CEPO will be seeking official approval from SSNPS for administering the public opinion polling as a community feedback strategy on police performance

Conclusion

This report intends to draw the attention of the public and the police leadership on the performance of the police in providing protection, security and safety to the citizens. The public appreciates the police performance in providing protection and security to the citizens during 2014 Christmas and 2015 new Year’s celebration. CEPO as an oversight institution decides to get engaged in monitoring and evaluating the police performance festivals. This report gives both sides of the performance being positive and negative performance. The report draws some recommendations for action by the leadership of the leadership and some for CEPO to undertake. The exercise is annually that CEPO undertakes.