



## **Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies Used by Malawi Police Service in Preventing Mob Justice: A Case Study of Chinsapo Community in Lilongwe District.**

***Immaculate Chithyola<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Velmurugan***

<sup>1</sup>Masters Of Social Work In Project Management Monitoring And Evaluation Student, Dmi St Eugene University, Lusaka Zambia

<sup>2</sup>Dmi St Eugene University, Lusaka Zambia

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### **ABSTRACT**

Mob justice, often referred to as vigilante justice, has emerged as a pressing challenge in many developing nations, undermining the rule of law and exposing deep-seated weaknesses in formal justice systems. It involves collective and extrajudicial actions by communities to punish alleged offenders, frequently triggered by perceptions of corruption, inefficiency, and inaccessibility of legal institutions. In African contexts, including Malawi, limited trust in the police, socio-economic inequalities, and cultural dynamics have contributed to the persistence of mob justice despite state and non-state interventions. Similarly, in Asian states such as Bangladesh, mob justice has become a recurring response to rising crime rates, institutional corruption, and political interference, often escalating into violent acts that destabilize communities. Previous studies highlight that community policing, public awareness, and legal reforms have been attempted as strategies to curb this phenomenon; however, their effectiveness remains contested. Against this backdrop, this study seeks to evaluate the strategies employed by the Malawi Police Service in preventing mob justice within the Chinsapo community in Lilongwe, while drawing comparative insights from broader African and Asian experiences. The study underscores the urgent need for integrated approaches that combine institutional reform, public trust-building, and community engagement to address the root causes of mob justice.

**Keywords:** Mob justice, Community policing, Malawi Police Service

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### **Introduction**

In many underdeveloped parts of the world, the enforcement of law and maintenance of order remain formidable challenges. Weak institutions, limited resources, and pervasive corruption have undermined public confidence in justice systems, giving rise to alternative mechanisms of dispute resolution such as mob justice. Mob justice, also known as vigilantism, jungle justice, or mob execution, involves groups of individuals taking the law into their own hands to punish suspected criminals without recourse to due legal processes. This practice, while often perceived as a swift and accessible form of justice, fundamentally undermines legality, fairness, and human rights (Buur, 2008; Alemika, 2013; Kyed, 2020).

Mob justice is not a new phenomenon; rather, it is deeply rooted in historical and socio-cultural contexts. In African states, it is fueled by widespread poverty, inequalities, and distrust in law enforcement, while in Asian countries like Bangladesh, political interference, social chaos, and weak judicial systems have made mob action a frequent occurrence (Osasona, 2016; Neysland, 2017). The consequences of mob justice are severe, ranging from human rights violations and erosion of the rule of law to broader threats to social cohesion and political stability.

In Malawi, as in many African countries, mob justice has gained prominence in public discourse. Studies have attributed its prevalence to delays in the justice system, limited access to legal services, and public frustration with police inefficiencies (Chinoko, 2016; Chirwa & Chijere-Chirwa, 2015; Chikapa, 2019). The Malawi Police Service has responded with strategies such as community policing, rapid response units, and awareness campaigns. Nevertheless, these measures remain insufficient in curbing the rise of mob violence, as their effectiveness is often contested (Hutchinson, 2016).

Beyond Malawi, comparative experiences in Bangladesh illustrate the global nature of mob justice, demonstrating how socio-political instability, misinformation, and cultural traditions can perpetuate collective violence. Laws such as the Penal Code of 1860, the Special Powers Act of 1974, and the Cyber Security Act of 2023 aim to address mob violence in Bangladesh, but their implementation has been hindered by lack of resources and judicial independence. These parallels highlight the urgent need for multipronged approaches that strengthen institutions, enhance law enforcement effectiveness, and engage communities in reshaping their perceptions of justice.

This study, therefore, evaluates the effectiveness of strategies adopted by the Malawi Police Service in preventing mob justice within the Chinsapo community, on the outskirts of Lilongwe. By situating the analysis within Malawi's socio-cultural and political realities, while drawing lessons from

international contexts such as Bangladesh, the study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how states can address mob justice and promote sustainable rule of law.

## Literature Review

### Main Literature Review

The qualitative study by Robin Glad, Aasa Stromberg and Anton Westerlund on mob justice in Uganda (2010) offers a background of the qualitative study of the how and why about mob formation and punishment of alleged wrongdoers within the current Ugandan societies. Through ethnographic fieldwork, interviews and participant observation in various districts, the authors recreate instances where crowds perform as accusers, juries and punishers; they term the occurrence as ritualized crowd action where forward panic, rumor as well as moral outrage come together to create extrajudicial punishment. Glad et al. focus on structural forces, such as low police presence, protracted legal processes, and general perceptions of governmental corruption, and they report that there is a tendency whereby suspected criminals are oftentimes humiliated, beaten, or murdered in the street without even being investigated. The work does not seek representative quantitative estimates but develops in great detail (qualitative) who does what (local adult men and women, oftentimes through community informal leaders) and how gender and age influence roles (men play more physically violent parts; women occasionally play the accomplice or the one who cries out to take action). The strength of Glad et al. lies in the explanations of the process and the local meaning, however the qualitative scope leaves open questions regarding the demographics profile of both victim and perpetrator at scale and the quantifiable prevalence across regions - which are later being addressed by the forensic and survey research (Glad et al., 2010).

An alternative policy-focused quantitative treatment of the Glad et al. account is at Afrobarometer, which offers nationally representative survey data regarding the attitudes of people and correlates of mob action support (Kakumba et al., 2020). The report also measures the number of citizens who are ready to support or engage in mob justice using Afrobarometer through a large cross-sectional survey of adults and associates the willingness to variables like lack of trust in police, corruption perception, crime fear, and socio-demographic reasons. The survey indicates that large minorities in Uganda report tolerance or support of violent mob punishment and regression analysis indicates that the lower the trust in police and the beliefs that courts are not effective, the higher the likelihood of supporting mob treatment. The Afrobarometer study presents population-level prevalence and statistical correlations (age and gender patterns are reported in the survey men and younger adults are mostly prone to justify mob action), whereas Glad et al. offer more narrative depth (ethnography) and cannot describe the micro-levels of the way a particular lynching occurs. The two, the qualitative (Glad et al., 2010) and the quantitative (Kakumba et al., 2020) methods shed light on the processes and the magnitude at the same time - however, each approach has some gaps, Afrobarometer is unable to measure the contextual triggers of single events, and Glad et al. fail to do the same, estimating national trends and causality.

Medar, Keyes & Stuart (2021) give this medical-forensic view through their forensic mortal study of the victims of mob-justice in South Africa, which is based on the real human cost rather than attitude and process. The authors retrospectively reviewed mortuary and forensic data, examining hundreds of deaths of mob-justice to characterize the demographics of victims, causes of death, and time patterns. Their results are stark and definite: the victims are mostly male (the sample is reported to be more than 99 percent male), are mostly young adults, and the lethal injuries are most often blunt-force injuries and serious assaults resulting in on-the-scene or shortly-after-admission fatality; the study measures the number of fatality, time-related changes, and location concentrations. Relative to both Glad et al. and Afrobarometer, the South African forensic study incorporates the lethal outcome aspect, the outcome that is who is dying and how, whilst affirming the previous studies findings that mob justice is violent and mostly affects young men disproportionately. However the forensic method can not answer the question of why the communities should lynch in the first place (it does not include attitudinal or institutional variables) and is not easy to make the causal attribution to the case of police failures or local culture; it also does not tend to embrace nonfatal casualties and the social aftermath as a whole. As a result, the integration of forensic data and surveys and ethnography would be more effective in tying the human cost to the social and institutional forces elsewhere (Medar et al., 2021).

The studies of city Nigeria and other West African contexts (such as the study by Shodunke of Lagos and comparative studies on the topic of jungle justice) emphasize other layers - in particular, the power of rumor, social media, and the local power relations - and provide an analytical point of difference to the East and Southern African literature. Investigations of Lagos and jungle justice in Nigeria tend to adopt mixed methods (case studies, media analysis, police and community leader interviews) and discover that the jungles justice incidents are often triggered by viral accusations, poor police presence, and citizens using the community to restore order when they do not trust the formal systems. In contrast to the Afrobarometer national-level indicator, these Nigeria surveys tend to trace the direction of information dissemination (WhatsApp and local radio), the extent to which ethnic or political tensions can inform mob behavior, and in some cases these local vigilante groups institutionalize extrajudicial execution. In comparison with the information ecology and political-economic variables (e.g., patronage, militia linkages) prominently foreshadowed by the Nigerian literature, the South African forensic study considers the number of fatalities and the Ugandan ethnography focuses on the ritual dynamics. Throughout the patchy array of studies in the region we thus observe complementary foci - micro-process (Uganda), public attitudes (Afrobarometer), lethal outcomes (South Africa), information/power structures (Nigeria) - but there are consistent gaps: few multi-method studies simultaneously combine attitudes, real time information flows, institutional trust measures and outcomes of police capacity in reducing mob incidents; longitudinal data to indicate whether any deviations between police capacity enhancements and mob incidents are on record are however limited; and gendered analyses beyond descriptive statistics (e.g. how They are urgent guidelines of the future study and policy interventions that would help decrease extrajudicial violence (Shodunke et al., 2023).

Synthesis of gaps between the studies: collectively, the literature confirms that mob justice is prevalent in most African situations, that it is extrajudicial and violent in nature, and that it is associated with the lack of trust in formal institutions. However, significant gaps exist: (1) joint multi-method studies

that relate community attitudes (surveys), triggering mechanisms (media/rumor analysis), real time crowd dynamics (ethnography), and human costs (forensic data) to the same geographic samples; (2) longitudinal or quasi-experimental studies that determine whether reforms in policing/access to judicial services reduce incidence; (3) detailed demographic and gender analyses that extend beyond simple victim counts to learn about the status of women, youths, and elders as accusers, participants, and victims; and (4) It is these gaps that need to be addressed to shift the field beyond description of the problem to finding scalable evidence-based solutions. To examine the qualitative description on a foundational level, one may refer to Glad et al.; on population attitudes, to Afrobarometer; on forensic fatalities, to Medar et al.; on urban/rumor/information dynamics, to studies of Nigeria and Lagos (Shodunke et al., 2023; Glad et al., 2010).

Continuing the idea of trust and effectiveness under a more difficult post-conflict setting, Abdi (2024) developed an original quantitative study in Mogadishu, Somali, and studied the impact of perceived police effectiveness on the level of citizen trust towards the police and their cooperation. A cross-sectional survey was conducted on 572 residents of four large police divisions in the Mogadishu area of diverse age groups and gender. The operationalization of police effectiveness in the study was a timely response to the calls, success in crime resolutions, crime prevention, support to victims, and maintaining the safety of the population. Abdi identified a strong direct and indirect positive correlation between perceived effectiveness of police and both trust in police institutions and citizen cooperation with mediator being satisfaction with police services using structural equation modeling. In contrast to the visibility and engagement of the UK context as Hanway underlines, the findings of Abdi highlight the leading role of the tangible police performance in building trust in the setting where formal institutional trust might be rather weak. The research highlighted the gaps in the research of the mechanisms of procedural justice and accountability that might further reinforce the collaboration of the people.

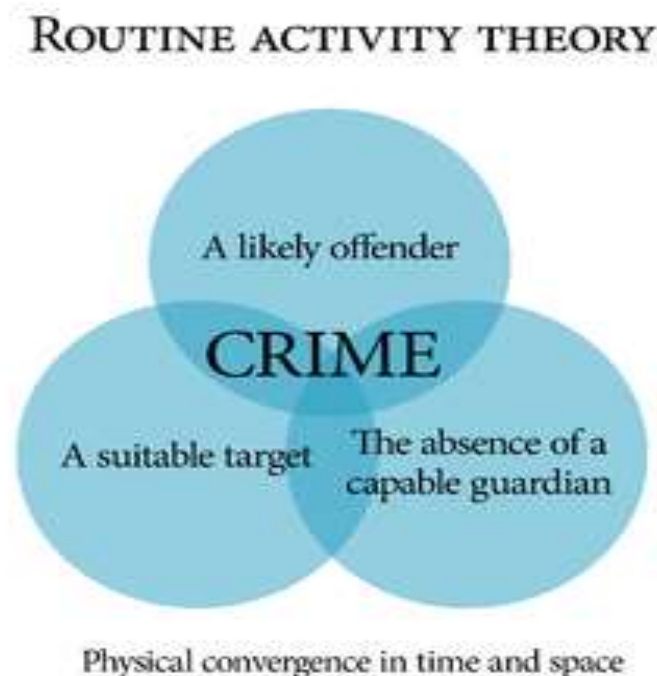
### Theoretical Reviews

#### The Routine Activity Theory (RAT)

The study will use the Routine Activity Theory (RAT) in order to show the relationship among variables involved in the study. The RAT was developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979. The theory' three elements to crime points at a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardianship respectively.

The RAT will also help the researcher to understand crime as not merely the result of individual pathology, but is heavily influenced by routine activities and situational contexts within a specific environment, (Cohen & Felson, 1979; Hollis, Felson, & Welsh, 2015).

As a result of this, tackling issues based on the situation at hand will also allow researchers to focus on the specific environmental and social conditions that facilitate criminal behaviors, such as mob justice.



The Motivated Offender element of RAT defines an individual as anyone willing to engage in criminal activity, only when an opportunity arises. Similarly, community members may commit mob justice upon being motivated with an opportunity to do so, especially upon perceiving that the formal justice system as ineffective or inaccessible.

The RAT recognises that any person, property or entity that is vulnerable to attack, is a suitable target. In mob justice incidents, this often includes individuals accused of crimes, who are perceived as easy targets due to a lack of protection.

The Absence of Capable Guardianship simply means the unavailability or limited availability of law enforcement officers, community leaders, or any other authority figures, which predisposes the suitable target at the mercy of the motivated offender. The presence or intervention of the capable guardianship pose as deterrence to criminal activity. The absence or inefficacy of police services in providing guardianship or protection to the public creates a security vacuum that encourages communities to resort to mob justice as an alternative form of enforcement.

Therefore, the RAT will be useful in analysing mob justice trends as it will provide essential insights and voids into prevailing deficiencies in guardianship and systemic failures, thereby providing useful link on how they contribute to mob justice incidents.

Based on published research, mob justice tends to occur in contexts where formal justice systems are seen as corrupt, slow, or inaccessible, prompting communities to take matters into their own hands, *Hollis, et al (2015)*. For instance, at Chinsapo in Lilongwe, this could be interpreted in similar context as to the lack of effective law enforcement and/or loyalty to the police as a driver of mob justice.

Furthermore, the theory underscores the importance of environmental and social factors, such as unemployment, poverty, and weak community structures, which may increase the availability of motivated offenders and suitable targets.

Therefore, applying RAT in this study, can effectively evaluate whether the strategies employed by the MPS in addressing the root causes of mob justice are successful or not, by further evaluating whether the ineffectiveness of the strategies can be enhanced with capable guardianship or by improving police presence or community-police relationships and whether the strategies leave gaps that perpetuate the convergence of offenders and targets respectively.

Application of RAT to mob justice through show casing situational crime prevention strategies, such as increasing capable guardianship through community policing, can effectively reduce opportunities for crime, *Hollis et al., (2017); Savona & Ricolfi, (2017)*.

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## Research Methodology

### Research Design and Methodology

The research will adopt a cross-sectional descriptive model to measure selected variables across a single time period in Lilongwe, Malawi. The selected design for this research is cross-sectional because it enables immediate data collection from many subjects to capture current scenarios linked to research criteria. This research will use multiple methodological approaches of both quantitative and qualitative types to fully grasp the research problem. The study uses structured questionnaires with key informant interviews and observational checklists as main data collection methods to achieve a multi-faceted data source validation.

### Research Approach

The research design implements mixed methods through which quantitative and qualitative investigation techniques will be integrated. Structured questionnaires will be used in the quantitative part to gather numerical data which can be statistically examined for variable relationships and descriptive patterns. The qualitative section of research consists of direct observations in addition to key informant interviews for gaining deep knowledge about factors which influence the study problem. The combination of these research methods provides enhanced research validity through data triangulation because it improves both the research completeness and accuracy and reliability of the obtained findings.

### Study population

The research population covers all residents from the Chinsapo peri-urban zone of Lilongwe Malawi. Adult men and women from 18 years old and up live in this population which also includes individuals who have lived in the area for six months and longer. The chosen population has importance because Chinsapo functions as the key site where the research interest exists. People selected from the community together with essential informants from different local roles including health workers and business owners will participate in the study.

### Sampling procedure

The research implements purposive sampling technique within its descriptive cross-sectional design with mixed methods approach. Program participants for this study will be chosen intentionally according to their background expertise and firsthand knowledge of mob justice practices and MPS prevention strategies operating in Chinsapo Community within Lilongwe District. The research design focuses on three distinct population groups including people in the community who experienced or directly observed mob justice incidents and law enforcement officials involved in preventing mob justice and leaders who guide community functioning. The researcher will adopt purposive sampling because it allows them to gather quantitative and qualitative data from individuals whose knowledge and experience directly contribute to the study subject. The analysis technique will produce vital detailed insights that help identify the success rate of current police methods.

### Sample size

The research will select 60 participants through three distinct groups containing 45 community members, 10 police officers and 5 community leaders. A total of 60 participants will be part of this study with 45 community members and 10 police officers and five community leaders in order to achieve adequate representation and keep pace with design requirements. The principle of data saturation will determine the final number of participants for the qualitative section of the study. Participatory observation within group segments will proceed until all new information about themes or participant insights become absent. Data collection will stop for a group when the researchers reach saturation even if the planned participant count has not been met. The research continues collecting participants until saturation points are reached but maintains recruiting more participants up to adequately cover the study's requirements. A combination of survey-based (quantitative) and interview-based (qualitative) data collection approaches will produce adequate detailed data required to properly assess police preventive measures against mob justice within Chinsapo.

## Data Analysis & Interpretation

### Public Perceptions of Police Strategies

The majority of respondents, 48.9% (22), disagreed or strongly disagreed (8.9% , 40.0% ) that police patrols were visible and regular in Chinsapo. Approximately 31.1% (14) agreed or strongly agreed (22.2% , 8.9% ), with 20.0% (9) neutral. Most participants, around 73.3% (33), disagreed or strongly disagreed (13.3% , 60.0% ) that police respond promptly when called to mob-related incidents, while 22.2% (10) agreed and 4.4% (2) were neutral. Nearly 77.8% (35) agreed or strongly agreed (46.7% , 31.1% ) that police communication with residents was respectful and clear, with 22.2% (10) neutral. Awareness campaigns about mob justice were reported as not conducted by 46.7% (21) who disagreed or strongly disagreed (11.1% , 35.6% ), while only 15.6% (7) agreed or strongly agreed (8.9% , 6.7% ) and 37.8% (17) were neutral. A majority of 66.7% (30) disagreed or strongly disagreed (40.0% , 26.7% ) that police collaborated effectively with community leaders, while 26.7% (12) agreed and 6.7% (3) were neutral. Most respondents, 77.8% (35), felt safer now compared to last year due to police presence, agreeing or strongly agreeing (55.6% , 22.2% ) whereas 8.9% (4) disagreed or strongly disagreed (6.7% , 2.2% ). Regarding suspects being properly processed through the justice system, 37.7% (17) disagreed or strongly disagreed (4.4% , 33.3% ), while 48.9% (22) agreed or strongly agreed (40.0% , 8.9% ) and 13.3% (6) were neutral (Table 1).

Table 1: Public Perceptions of Police Strategies (n=45).

Statement	Strongly Disagree n(%)	Disagree n(%)	Neutral n(%)	Agree n(%)	Strongly Agree n(%)
Police patrols are visible and regular in Chinsapo.	4(8.9)	18(40.0)	9(20.0)	10(22.2)	4(8.9)
Police respond promptly when called to mob-related incidents.	6(13.3)	27(60.0)	2(4.4)	10(22.2)	-
Police communication with residents is respectful and clear.	-	-	10(22.2)	21(46.7)	14(31.1)
Awareness campaigns about mob justice are conducted in my area.	5(11.1)	16(35.6)	17(37.8)	4(8.9)	3(6.7)
Police collaborate effectively with community leaders in preventing mob justice.	18(40.0)	12(26.7)	3(6.7)	12(26.7)	-
I feel safer now compared to last year due to police presence.	3(6.7)	1(2.2)	6(13.3)	25(55.6)	10(22.2)
Suspects arrested by police are properly processed through the justice system.	2(4.4)	15(33.3)	6(13.3)	18(40.0)	4(8.9)

*Focus group discussions held with 10 police officers and 5 community leaders in Chinsapo. Emerging themes are highlighted, and illustrative quotes from participants are provided to reflect their views.*

**Theme 1: Visibility of Patrols**

Police officers reported that routine patrols were being conducted, especially in the evenings. However, resource shortages limited consistency.

*“ We conduct night patrols, but sometimes we fail because vehicles have no fuel,”* (Police officer, FGD).

**Theme 2: Awareness Campaigns**

Both groups acknowledged that awareness campaigns on mob justice had been organized, but these were not frequent.

*“ Police come to schools and markets to teach about mob justice, but it only happens once in a while,”* (Community leader, FGD).

**Theme 3: Police-Resident Communication**

Community leaders observed improved communication and respectful interaction from officers.

*“ Now police officers speak to us in a respectful way, not like before,”* (Community leader, FGD).

**Theme 4: Response to Incidents**

Both groups agreed that responses to mob-related incidents were sometimes delayed.

*“ When we are called, we try to rush, but lack of transport delays us,”* (Police officer, FGD).

**4.2 Role of Community Policing Initiatives**

Community policing forums were reported as inactive by 53.4% (24) who disagreed or strongly disagreed (15.6% , 37.8% ), while 22.2% (10) agreed or strongly agreed (17.8% , 4.4% ) and 24.4% (11) were neutral. Regarding trust improvement between police and residents, 37.8% (17) disagreed or strongly disagreed (6.7% , 31.1% ) and 53.3% (24) agreed or strongly agreed (42.2% , 11.1% ), with 8.9% (4) neutral. Rumours and misinformation control through community policing was perceived negatively by 57.8% (26) who disagreed or strongly disagreed (28.9% , 28.9% ), with 22.2% (10) agreeing or strongly agreeing (13.3% , 8.9% ) and 20.0% (9) neutral. Opinions on reporting crimes to police rather than taking law into own hands were split: 48.8% (22) disagreed or strongly disagreed (24.4% , 24.4% ), and 40.0% (18) agreed or strongly agreed (20.0% , 20.0% ), with 11.1% (5) neutral. Mob justice reduction due to community policing was agreed or strongly agreed by 35.6% (16) (17.8% , 17.8% ), but 55.6% (25) disagreed or strongly disagreed (15.6% , 40.0% ) and 8.9% (4) neutral. Participation by youth, religious leaders, and CSOs in mob justice prevention was acknowledged by 44.5% (20) (28.9% , 15.6% ), while 26.7% (12) disagreed or strongly disagreed (11.1% , 15.6% ) and 28.9% (13) neutral (Table 2).

Table 2: Role of Community Policing Initiatives (n=45)

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)
Community policing forums are active in my area.	7(15.6)	17(37.8)	11(24.4)	8(17.8)	2(4.4)
Community policing has improved trust between police and residents.	3(6.7)	14(31.1)	4(8.9)	19(42.2)	5(11.1)
Rumours and misinformation are better controlled through community policing.	13(28.9)	13(28.9)	9(20.0)	6(13.3)	4(8.9)
More people report crime to police rather than taking the law into their hands.	11(24.4)	11(24.4)	5(11.1)	9(20.0)	9(20.0)
Mob justice incidents have reduced due to	7(15.6)	18(40.0)	4(8.9)	8(17.8)	8(17.8)

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)
community policing activities.					
Youth, religious leaders, and CSOs participate in mob justice prevention initiatives.	5(11.1)	7(15.6)	13(28.9)	13(28.9)	7(15.6)

*Focus group discussions held with 10 police officers and 5 community leaders in Chinsapo Emerging themes are highlighted, and illustrative quotes from participants are provided to reflect their views*

#### Theme 1: Functioning of Community Policing Forums

Police officers reported that community policing forums (CPF) were operational and contributed to reporting of cases.

*“The forums help us to receive information faster and people now report instead of forming mobs,”* (Police officer, FGD).

#### Theme 2: Collaboration with Local Leaders

Community leaders emphasized that CPFs created a platform for partnership.

*“We meet with police and religious leaders, which has helped reduce rumours,”* (Community leader, FGD).

#### Theme 3: Irregular Meetings

Both groups noted that CPF meetings were irregular.

*“Sometimes meetings only happen after an incident,”* (Community leader, FGD).

### Suggestions & Recommendations

Although this study has provided useful insights into the problem of mob justice in Chinsapo Township, some gaps remain that warrant further research. Future studies should examine the role of judicial delays and sentencing patterns in influencing community perceptions of justice, as this area was beyond the scope of the current study. In addition, there is a need to explore gender dimensions in mob justice, particularly how women and vulnerable groups are affected either as victims or participants. Another potential area of research is the assessment of the long-term impact of community policing reforms in Malawi, focusing on how sustainable they are and whether they truly address the root causes of mob justice.

Future research should also broaden the geographical scope to include rural and other urban areas for comparative analysis. This would provide a more comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of police strategies across different settings. Lastly, more in-depth studies on the socio-economic drivers of mob justice, particularly poverty, unemployment, and drug abuse among youth, would provide evidence-based recommendations for integrated policy and practice interventions.

### Conclusion

This study investigated the effectiveness of Malawi Police strategies in curbing mob justice in Chinsapo Township, Lilongwe District. The findings revealed that mob justice remains a widespread challenge, largely fueled by mistrust of the police, delayed response to crime, and limited community-police collaboration. Community members expressed concern that the police were often slow to respond, inadequately resourced, and sometimes perceived as corrupt. At the same time, police officers reported that community members often withheld information, took the law into their own hands, and resisted lawful arrests. These dynamics have created a cycle of violence where communities resort to mob justice due to frustration and lack of confidence in formal justice systems.

The findings further highlighted that community policing initiatives, though in place, were not fully effective due to weak structures, lack of coordination, and insufficient community participation. Both police officers and community leaders emphasized the need for stronger partnerships, increased civic education, and capacity building. Social and economic factors, such as unemployment, poverty, and high crime rates, also contributed significantly to the persistence of mob justice. The study therefore concludes that while the police have made some efforts to address mob justice, the strategies remain inadequate without meaningful collaboration with communities, resource support, and systematic reforms in policing practices.

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