

Framing of Police Enforcement of the Covid-19 Laws in Kenya: A Comparative Analysis of the Daily Nation and Standard Newspapers

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Abstract

This study analysed how the Standard and The Daily Nation Newspapers framed the Kenyan police enforcement of Legal Notice No. 36 of 2020. Three major objectives were interrogated; the frames used by the two newspapers in reporting police enforcement of the curfew, the figures of speech used in the framing the police enforcement work and the sources of the stories used. Content analysis was the main data collection method. The key findings of the study were: The Daily Nation and the Standard newspapers framed the police enforcement of the curfew through negative valance via use of: brutality frames, conflict frames, death and murder frames. It also emerged that, the voicing of the police enforcement of the curfew order was largely suppressed and left mainly to the mass media institutions and the journalists. Inferentially, the two newspapers played their watchdog role effectively. It also emerged that, critical voices necessary in ensuring accountability and transparent of the police enforcement of Covid 19 curfew in Kenya like: The Judiciary, Parliament, International Community and other key human right agencies were silent. It is recommended that, police should be trained on matters human rights and freedom and that both the journalists and the public should be empowered in order to hold police to account for their sometimes illegal actions during executions of their mandates.

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1. Introduction

Kivoi 2020 argues that, Kenya has a worrying history of policing with impunity and excessive force. Ten days after the president imposed the dusk to dawn curfew to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, at least six police brutality-related deaths were publicised (“Kenya: Police Brutality,” 2020). This police brutality traced to the British colonial period when the administration erected the police to silence resistance. The colonial government identified protecting the administration’s interests as the central role of the police. This bias negated the common belief that the police should primarily serve the public’s interest. Fick (2018) argues that in Kenya, police leadership has perpetuated a culture of hostility and indifference to the masses. Indeed, the Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) had by 2018 received over 9200 complaints, an increase of 30% from the year 2013 (Fick, 2018)

After the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the year 2020 in Kenya, The President of the Republic of Kenya made interventions to cushion Kenyans against the disease. He gave an executive order to the police to control the spread of the disease, via Public Order Number 1 which was gazetted as Legal Notice No. 36 -The Public Order (State Curfew) Order, 2020 which includes the following major provisions: A daily curfew from 7 pm to 5 am would be in place in the Republic of Kenyan territory as of Friday, March 27, 2020, for 30 days. It is illegal for anybody who is not a medical professional, a health worker, or someone who provides critical or essential services to move during those hours. The legal notice no. 36 gave the police service the legal mandate to enforce the curfew orders. There was a suspension of all public events, meetings, religious vigils, and sporting contests. The government also closed all schools and educational institutions and suspended all interschool competitions. Therefore, the coverage of this police mandate by the two leading newspaper offers important

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lessons about how the mass media role in society is played out including its agenda setting functions.

Objective journalism can serve as a supervisory body over the force, and Kenyan media houses seem to keep police officers in check. Indeed, watchdog journalists are effective reporting police wrongdoings and stopping the misconduct (Weighton & McCurdy, 2017 Panuel (2019,). Furthermore, Kamau (2016), argues that press freedom is guaranteed in the Kenyan constitution, placing print media as a legitimate and accountable news source among the public. Kamau adds that, humans cannot exercise their right to speak freely if they do not know what power holders are doing or what instruments are available to hold them to account. The two Newspapers are therefore projected as important mechanism of accountability. They are the watchdogs that help guard public interests and ensure transparency in the way those in power execute their mandate. Sela-Shayovitz (2014), is of the opinion that, news coverage of the police has a significant impact on police legitimacy and that legitimacy is a major precursor to the public's readiness to obey and work with the police. Legitimacy is also enhanced when members of public perceive police as treating citizens with dignity. Ashcroft (2013) states that the news media can be instrumental in advancing these efforts through the dissemination of positive information about the police.

Miller *et al.* (2004) argue that police executives strive to persuade civilians that they function professionally and with integrity through public relations campaigns, retraining officers in handling police-public encounters, and improving supervisor capacity to monitor police-public encounters. These efforts are most effective when the media frames the police as accountable. However, negative frames diminish police responsibility and thus morale. For instance, Mourtgos *et al.* (2021) exchange theory states that people prefer relationships in which equity is experienced. Bad framing robs police officers of this equity. If officers use force to protect citizens or themselves in accordance with professional and legal standards, they may face public backlash and develop a perception of inequality. Clearly, mass media framing of police work goes beyond mere agenda setting to bring new perspectives into the public domain regarding a broad range of social problems. The Legal Notice No. 36-The Public Order (State Curfew) Order, 2020 did not include any public participation. Mwangi and Khsiebi (2022) state that participation strengthens the community and defends it against so-called impersonal bureaucracy. Another point of contention is the differing media and police representation of the force, for instance, Bearak (2021) claims that the DCI Kenya official Twitter account for the Directorate of Criminal Investigations-Kenya shows an opposing side to the police. The account shows police officers preventing and investigating crime and providing justice for the affected and also shows police officers tracking fellow members who have committed crimes against the public.

2. Media Framing

Framing requires choosing and emphasising a few aspects of the events or problems as well as connecting them in order to support a specific interpretation, assessment, and/or remedy. A frame gives the receiver of the frame an instant context by choosing which facts or concepts to emphasise or leave out. Benequista (2016) argues that, framing is both prescriptive and diagnostic for it describes the issue by defining the causal agent's function, and it assigns blame by defining the issue's source or cause. Subsequently, frames present potential fixes in an effort to lessen the issue that has been identified.

Journalists use various frames in their journalistic works: first, there is valence framing. Valence information is framed when it is presented favourably or unfavourably. When framing has a positive connotation, it is linked to cherished ideas, values, customs, and rituals, for instance, a newspaper article can argue that, through the work of police, citizen's lives were saved, this kind of framing has a positive valence. Negative valence highlights certain unfavourable traits of a phenomenon. Second, semantic is used to draw attention to certain characteristics that could be flattering or disparaging. Third, tale frames utilize the storytelling or narrative approaches and responsibility frames illustrate how Individuals play out their roles in incidents and in various situations. Fifth, the human interest frames utilize story telling approach and presents the story in lighthearted manner. It shows individuals and their issues, concerns, or accomplishments in an atmosphere that piques the reader's or viewer's interest or inspires them. Sixth, is the Conflict frame, such frames focus on antagonistic tensions, disputes, and incompatibility. Conflict frames represents disagreement amongst people, organisations, or nations. According to Kamau (2016) "the mass media sets agendas because it has control of information that passes through its gates." In other words, the media intrudes on people's "life-space" through what it reports to them. Arowolo (2017) argues that media framing is often part of competitive intelligence, where journalists identify elements that make their items more desirable to consumers than rivals.

3. Figures of Speech used by the Nation and the Standard Newspapers

The audience develops a variety of meanings as a result of the usage of figurative speech. A few examples of figures of speech includes simile, irony, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, euphemism, alliteration, assonance, and apostrophe among others. For instance, Kozlova (2021), states that a metaphor is used for implying a comparison between two things that have something in common but are in general different from

each other. Some examples of the usage of metaphors in a communication includes ‘he’s a star of our class’. President Kenyatta, for example, invokes metaphors related to the WAR in a speech he gave on May 16, 2020 when he stated, “it is however, clear we have not delivered the final blow to this enemy (Covid 19) that has invaded our community and the world at large”. Fridkin *et al.* (2017) argue that frames influence the public’s understanding of events because they exist in two main ways: frames in communication and frames in thought. As frames in communication, media frames become explanatory structures entrenched in political discourse such that they use texts, visuals, and images to put forth a salient idea. As frames in thought, they live inside the individual’s mind and help the citizens make sense of national issues. A change of perception is attained when the frames in communication (i.e. texts, images, and visuals that have been determined to be salient) shape the frames in thought in a process called the framing effect (Fridkin, *et al.*, 2017). The framing effect may be reached in a variety of ways, including establishing equivalency that occurs when journalists replace logically equivalent phrases or words (Fridkin *et al.*, 2017). The equivalency framing effect is also called the gain and loss frame as it deals with benefits versus costs and how they influence individual frames in thought. For instance, instead of saying, “80% of all police officers are corrupt,” the media outlet might use, “20% of police members are honest.” This example presents an equivalency framing facet identified as attribute framing, whereby the feature (corrupt versus honest) becomes the focus of the frame. The study explores how, the enforcement of the Covid-19 curfew was framed by the Standard and Nation Newspapers.

4. The Problem

The practice of policing in Kenya is contested. There is a considerable accusation of police impunity and brutality (Kivoi, 2020, Waguoa 2001, IPOA 2019). The mainstream mass media in Kenya are supposed to acts as a watchdog over police operations (Fick, 2018). Therefore, how mass media frames important social mandate like the police enforcement of the Covid-19 curfew in Kenya is important and need to be understood. Indeed, Graziano and Gauthier (2017) indicate that bad coverage of police enforcement of government directives can hurt police service image, credibility, trustworthiness, and reputation. With poor framing, people are more likely to perceive police misconduct, including racial discrimination, as common and entrenched. Accordingly, the effect of the Kenyan media coverage and framing of police on public perceptions of the police is unclear. This study explores the types frames used by the Nation and Standard newspapers in their coverage of the Legal notice no 36 (what is generally referred to as the Covid 19 Curfew in Kenya)

5. Methodology

A descriptive content analysis research design was used in the study. The goal of this design was to capture a more comprehensive understanding of the way print media in Kenya framed the police work via their coverage of police enforcement of legal Notice No. 36. The research population included copies of all Daily Nation and Standard Newspapers published between March 28 to April 28, 2020, the period the Public Order (State Curfew) was declared. The curfew curtailed movements of ordinary citizens by requiring them to be indoors between 7.00 pm to 5am during the curfew period. The curfew was to last for 30 days, meaning there were 60 newspapers published (Nation and Standard) (see Table 1)

Table 1: Newspaper published during the study period

Newspaper	March 28 – 31 Publication	April 1-28	Total
Daily Nation	2	28	30
Standard Newspaper	2	28	30
Total	6	56	60

All article that contained comments about police enhancement of Covid 19 curfew were selected. Through pre-reviewed of all the Nation and Standard newspapers published during the 30days curfew period, a total of 60 articles were identified. (36 articles in Nation Newspaper and 24 articles in Standard Newspaper). The data was collected using content analysis method. Articles about police enforcement of the Covid-19 curfew were downloaded and then analysed via various variables such as page placement (FrontPage, Page 2, Page 3, fillers (inside stories), and back page story, Story Direction (Positive, Negative and Neutral and frames used (negative valence, semantic tales, responsibility, human interest, economic molarity disagreements, obedience, controversy, and wrongdoing). Source of articles was also examined. Excel worksheets were used to code the various themes and generate related mathematical tabulations, graphs and other pictorial presentations for the variables identified.

6. Findings

6.1 Articles and their placement in Nation and Standard Newspapers

The study established that The Nation and Standard newspapers published 60 articles about police enforcement of Legal Notice No. 36. Thirty-four (34) articles were in Nation and 24 articles were in the Standard Newspaper,

representing a 60% and 40% share for the two newspaper respectively. It emerged that, there was no significant difference in the way the Nation and Standard newspapers treated the police implementation of the Covid-19 curfew laws. Suffice to say that, 8 in 10 of the articles touching on the police implementation of the Covid-19 curfew was placed in the middle pages for both Nation and Standard newspapers, 80% and 75 % respectively. Daily Nation placed One in ten (13.9 %) of its articles of police enforcement of legal Notice No 36 in the front page while standard newspaper placed 8.4% of its articles its front page. Both papers had considerable articles in their editorial pages with Standard newspaper having almost three times more (16.6) editorials articles than the Nation newspaper (5.6 %). With this huge editorial presence, it may be inferred that, the mainstream print media newspaper in Kenya saw police enforcement of legal Notice No. 36 as a matter of great concern to Kenyan people. Generally speaking, contents placed in the editorial pages of a newspaper are considered as very important. It emerged that, there was not a single international article about the way the Kenyan police executed their enforcement of Covid-19 curfew. Clearly, despite the Covid-19 Pandemic having global impact, the mechanism put forward to control its spread were largely a function of individual states. It may be inferred that, global accountability mechanisms and cautions were missing in the way the Kenyan print media covered the police enforcement of Covid 19 curfew in Kenya. Similarly, the lack of international scrutiny may have contributed to the many human rights breaches by the Kenyan police during the enforcement of the curfew.

Tables 2 and 3 capture the placement of articles by the two newspapers.

Table 2 Nation Newspaper

Page	Number of Articles	Percentages
Page 1-2	4	11.1
Page 3	1	2.8
Editorials	2	5.6
Middle	29	80.6
International	0	0.0
Back Page	0	0.0
Total	36	100.0

Table 3 Standard Newspaper

Standard Placements	Number of Articles	Percentages
Page 1-2	1	4.2
Page 3	1	4.2
Editorials	4	16.7
Middle	18	75.0
International	0	0.0
Back Page	0	0.0
Total	24	100.0

6.2 Types of articles

The data revealed that, both the Nation and Standard newspapers didn't have any significant difference in the way they covered and framed the police enforcement of Covid-19 curfew laws. Majority of the articles were hard news and mostly accompanied by pictorial with captions for emphasis. In the Nation newspaper more than half of all articles published there were hard news (53%) while in the Standard newspaper, every 6 in ten of its articles were hard-news (62%), see figure 1 and 2)

Figure 1 Nation Newspaper

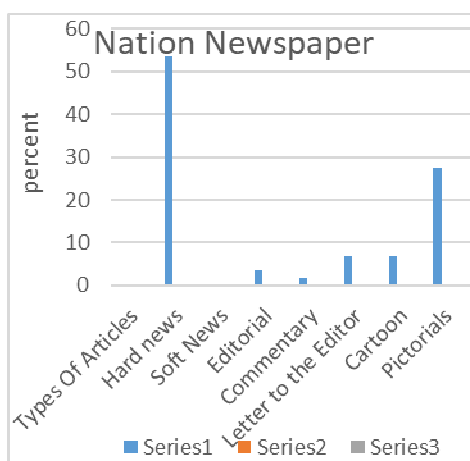
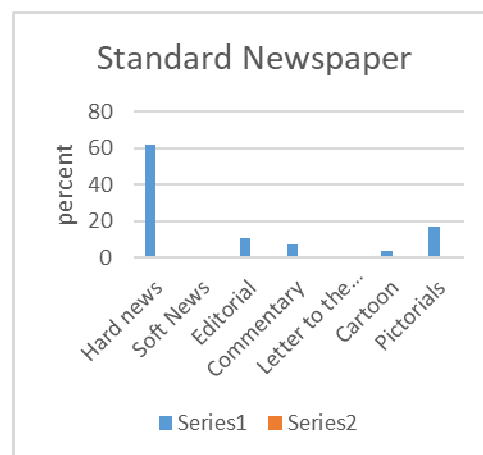


Figure 2 Standard Newspaper



From Figures 1 and 2, the two newspapers largely covered the enforcement of the legal Notice no 36, via the hard news lenses. This tendency to use hard news could be attributed to two major issues: first, the Covid-19 Pandemic was new phenomenon in Kenya and the world. Second, the Covid-19 Pandemic had devastating consequences for countries and the world. The two tables show that the two newspapers also used news commentaries and cartons. From the table, the Nation newspapers had more coverage, it also had more graphic and pictorial presentation of the police activities during the enforcement of the legal Notice no. 36. In terms of granting the masses a platform of voicing their concern via letter to the editor, the Nation newspaper seems to be

more accessible because one in ten articles in this newspaper was a letter to the editor. It is noted that, the two newspapers did not have any soft article about the police enforcement of the Covid-19 curfew in Kenya. With absence of soft news, then the human interest angles are lost and the negative framing of police enhanced.

6.3 Types of frames used

The framing of the legal Notice No 30 by both Nation and Standard newspapers reflected huge similarity. The frames that used were strikingly alarming because they were very negative. Indeed, 70% and 72% of all frames in Nation and Standard newspapers respectively were about brutality, conflict and negative valence. Only one in ten frames in the Nation newspaper were positive (13%) and only two (15%) in ten of all frames used by Standard newspaper were positive. Combined, the two newspapers only wrote one in ten stories (14%) using positive frames (see table 4 and 5). In terms of comparison, the two newspapers were very close in the way they used negative frames. For instance, the Nation had 28.9%, 21.7 % and 19.3% Negative valence frames, conflict frames and brutality frames respectively, while the standard had 27.5%, 23.5% and 21.6% for negative valence, conflict and brutality respectively. These data indicate that the journalists and commentators in the two daily newspapers judged the police work quite negatively in the way they enforced the Covid 19 curfew. The enforcement had serious flaws from the perspective of Nation and Standard.

Table 4 Frames in Nation

Nation		
Frames	No Of frames	Percentage
Positive valence	11	13.3
Negative Valence	24	28.9
Conflict	18	21.7
Brutality	16	19.3
Human interest	1	1.2
Moral	0	0.0
Responsibility	13	15.7
Economics	0	0.0
Tale	0	0.0
Total	83	100.0

Table 5 Frames in Standard

Standard		
Frames	No Of Articles	Percentage
Positive valence	8	15.7
Negative Valence	14	27.5
Conflict	12	23.5
Brutality	11	21.6
Human interest	0	0.0
Moral	0	0.0
Responsibility	6	11.8
Economics	0	0.0
Tale	0	0.0
Total	51	10

From tables 4 and 5, Nation newspaper had two in ten (15.7 %) of its stories framed using responsibility frames, while the Standard had one in ten of its articles projected in responsibility frames. Tables 4 and 5 also indicates that, human interest frames, moral frames, economic and tales' frames were negligibly used by the two newspapers. Clearly, without the moral, human interest and tales' frames, the police enforcement of the legal notice number 36 was mechanistic and without human touch. The Police enforcement of the Covid-19 law was removed from concepts that would of necessity give it the human face.

6.3.1 Police brutality

In Figure 3, the frames of police brutality, Conflict and negative valence are clear. The headline put the police on spot and therefore under scrutiny for causing the chaos that was witnessed when police beat up innocent Kenyans who were hurrying home to beat the Covid-19 curfew. The image captures the citizen teargassed, and ordered to lie down like criminals and in a very dehumanising acts. The masses are herded together like herds of cattle and without any caution to crowding and its possibility of facilitating the spread and exposure of the masses to the corona virus. The approach negated the very essence of the Covid-19 curfew in Kenya. The article illustrates the unprofessional approach that police brought to the enforcement of legal notice no 36.

Figure 3. Police Brutality



6.3.2 Negative valence and conflict frames

In figure 4, the Nation Newspaper published on 29/3/2020 a front page headline in a clock timer reading 6:59:59. The timer had a caption that read that, the country Kenya should brace itself to the beginning of police brutality and blood bath. The accompanying image was that of a Kenyan truck driver dragged out of his truck and being violently whipped by police officer. Clearly, it appears that, the police misinterpreted the declaring of the legal notice No 36 as a declaration of the loss of human rights for the Kenyan Masses. Another article framed the police as a terrorizing gang. Other articles captured an adult male at his home nursing serious injury attributed to police brutality during the enforcement of covid-19 curfew and another had an adult female in a hospital bed after being assaulted by police while they were enforcing the Covid-19 curfew (See figure 4)

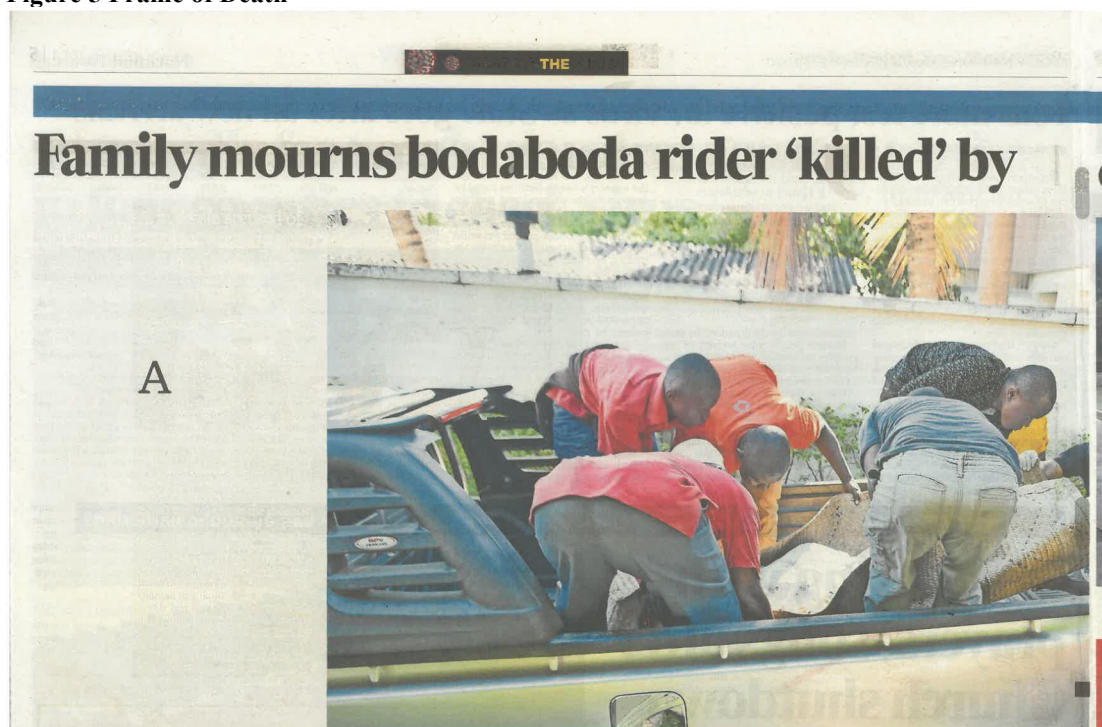
Figure 4 Negative valence



6.4.4 Frames of death

The Kenyan police were also framed via death frames. Figure 7 illustrates. Indeed, an article in one of the print media had a story headlined as: Two killed, ten left nursing injuries for flouting curfew hours (see figure 5)

Figure 5 Frame of Death



There were also editorial articles that used positive valance, for instance, an editorial in standard cautioned Kenyan to break the curfew laws at their own risk. A letter to the editor urged police to be humane in their enforcement of Covid-19 curfew. And another editorial urged the police to be professional in their curfew enforcement work.

7 Figures of speech used in framing police enforcement of Covid-19 curfew

It emerged that, the coverage of police enforcement of legal Notice no 36 was largely of narrative and reportage nature (See table 6 and 7). When a writer uses language that is metaphorical or has a secondary meaning in addition to its primary meaning, they are using a figure of speech. This figurative language may make anything easier to imagine or more intriguing in general. For instance, a metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (see figure 6).

Table 6 Figures of speech at Nation

Type	Article	Percent
Metaphor	0	0
Simile	0	0
Idioms	10	33.3
Narrations	20	66.6
Total	30	100

Table 7 Figures of speech at Standard

type	article	percent
metaphor	0	0
simile	0	0
idiom	4	19.0
narration	17	80.9
Total	21	100

Table 6 and 7 show the figures of speech used by the two newspapers in their framing of police enforcement of legal notice No 30.

Figure 6 captures another creative use of language. In the figure, there is coinage of a new phrase *Karavovirus*. The word *Karao* is a Kenyan street name for police. The phrase *Kalovovirus* is used in order to contextualise the covid-19 enforcement and how the police themselves have become a virus and therefore should be avoided by the Kenyan citizen during the curfew hours. The journalist also uses illustrations and caricatures and comparisons as well as choice of words that powerfully describes the police character. For instance, the choice of the word *Vile*, frame the police as corrupt to the core, and open to corrupt tendencies especially bribery. The word also carries the meaning of mercenary. The illustration appeared in the editorial page of one of the newspaper.

Figure 8

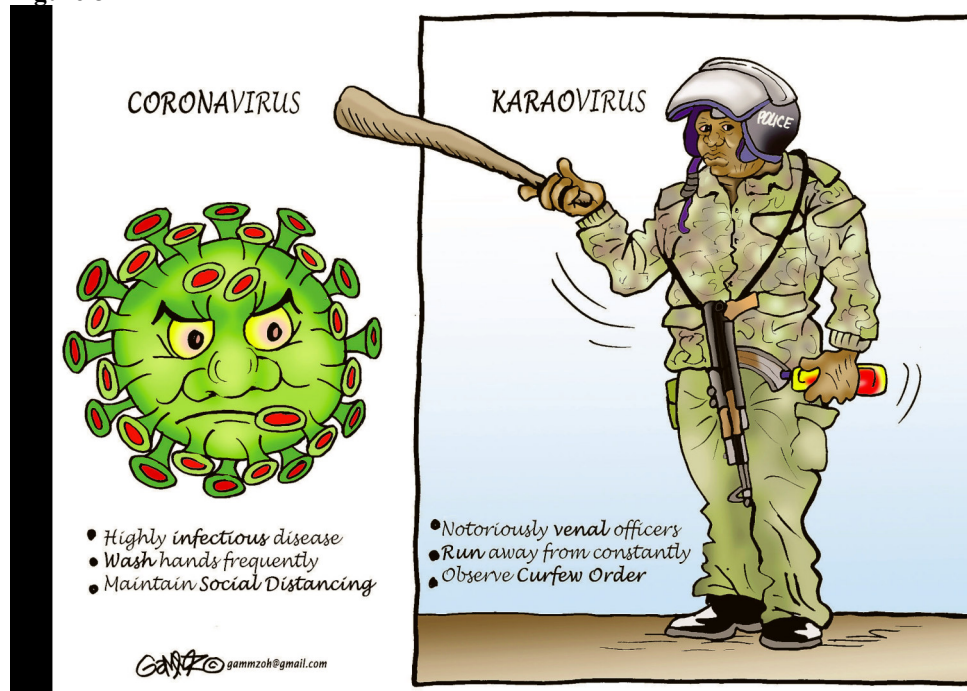


Figure 6 compares the police to corona virus and frame the police as equal or worse than the pandemic which they were to help curb its spread. Nevertheless, the responsibility of the police is also put there, enforce curfew order!

Figure 7 illustrates another application of the language to explain the police enforcement of Covid-19 curfew as well as explain the police character. The use of sarcasms is evident in the illustrations. For instance, the illustration show a Kenyan chained down by the Corona virus, but while he/she may survive that virus, he/she might not survive the police brutality. In the expert opinion in the same page the writer cautions the Kenyan people that, there is a deadlier disease (pestilence) than the corona virus that affects the entire country Kenya, Police brutality and hypocrisy! (See figure 7)

Figure 7



Figure 8 illustrates, the personification of the town, the town is given human qualities, and projected as going silent. This suggests that, the town is not a physical thing but a community of people affected by the order restricting movement. Simile is also used to compare the silence of the town to the falling of a stone. The silence is sudden and complete. The use of figures of speech create a vivid description about the effect of corona virus-curfew-order on the town. There is a sense of anxiety, suspense and despair. The people have been silenced, their power of voice taken away and their opinion suppressed.

Figure 8 Personification frame



8 Sources of Articles

The data indicated that, the greatest voice about how the police enforced the legal Notice No 30 came from the journalists and the media institutions, they accounted for six in every ten articles published, 64% in nation and 63% in standard. Second, although the police were the primary actors in the enforcement of the curfew, their voice on the issues was minimal, only one in ten articles came from them. The police perspective was therefore not adequately framed by the two newspapers. Third, two critical arms of the government of Kenya, the Judiciary and Parliament were largely silent about how the police enforced the covid-19 curfew. Probably this may have encouraged the police unprofessionalism during their enforcement of the covid-19 curfew. Voices of cautions are necessary in any accountability mechanism intended to those holding and controlling the instruments of power. Fourth, the international voices and religion organisation voices were also missing. And finally, only one in ten (10.4%) of the articles about how police enforced the Covid-19 curfew in Kenya came from the general public. Generally speaking, there was a silencing order (curfew) and which generally seemed to have led to the silencing of voices critical in ensuring the accountability of the police work. It is therefore commendable that, the Nation and Standard newspapers were out there holding the police to account during their enforcement of the legal notice No 36 in Kenya). The important duty of journalist as the fourth estate and as the public watchdog are laid bare in circumstances such as the one experienced in Kenya during the police enforcement of the covid-19 curfew (see table 8 and 9).

Table 8 Article source- Nation

Nation	Article	Percent
President	1	2.9
Ministry	3	8.8
Judiciary	0	0
Politician	1	2.9
Journalist	19	55.9
Experts	0	0
Parliament	0	0
International organization	0	0
Public	4	11.8
Religion	0	0
Media institution	3	8.8
Police	3	8.8
Total	34	100

Table 9 Article sources – standard

Standard	Article	Percent
President	1	4.5
Ministry	1	4.5
Judiciary	0	0
Politician	0	0
Journalist	9	50.0
Experts	2	9.1
Parliament	0	0
International organization	0	0
Public	2	9.1
Religion	0	0
Media Institution	3	13.6
Police	4	18.3
Total	22	100

The print media in Kenya urged the police to be professional and exposed the crimes and ills committed by the police during the enforcement of the Covid-19 curfew. The journalists in these two newspapers put their lives on the line to ensure that, the police were held accountable for the actions, omissions and breaches during their enforcement of the covid-19 laws. The journalists’ coverage and framing of the police work during the curfew

enforcement illuminated and shed lights on both the governance gaps in the police operations as well as laid bare some in-efficiencies in the way the police interpreted their mandates and duty to the public.

9 Conclusion

The Nation and Standard newspapers in Kenya framed the police work using various frames. It emerged that 70 % of all articles published by the two newspapers were negatively framed. In terms of prominent and placement of articles, the two newspapers did a good job and gave a fair share of their coverage to the newspaper pages considered important. Majority of the stories that were published originated from the mass media institutions and their journalists. It also emerged that, the greatest voice about how the police executed its mandate came from the mass media institutions, this observation is welcome and illustrates without reservations the vibrancy of the Kenyan mainstream newspapers in serving the public good. The other arms of government, like the judiciary and the Parliament were silent. This observation is ironical given that, in Kenya, parliament is by nature supposed to speak for the people and judiciary is by nature supposed to protect people rights and hold the powers that be to account.

10 Recommendations

1. There is need for the police to work more closely with the institution of mass media such as mainstream newspaper. It is recommended that, journalist and police should have educational workshops tailor-made to reflect on the way they execute their mandate of serving the public and how that service could be enhanced. Such workshops should have deep contents on matters human rights, human dignity, duty, obligations and ethical practices for public service.
2. Journalists should be trained via seminars and workshops on the possible effects of their framing of media contents and the effects of words and language choice on their public.
3. It is recommended that, the journalists' work and role in any democratic society should be enhanced via sensitization and training of stakeholders in the public space like: the police, legislatures, judiciary and the executive about the value of their work in society. As an accountability mechanism journalistic works should be objective and impartial and based on professionalism. It is therefore recommended that, journalist should have refresher courses on media professionalisms and ethics.
4. It is recommended that, when dealing with an international crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic, the United Nations should come up with universal standards of practice in terms of its control and management. The UN should put in place an accountability mechanism for individual state-actors who are duty bound to safeguard the human safety, and human rights. Actors should never abandon caution in their implementation of laws in Kenya, including those which are personalized and health related.

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