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| Book Name: | **"RURAL JUSTICE IN AFRICA: RETHINKING CRIME, POLICING, AND COMMUNITY SECURITY IN MARGINALISED SPACES"** |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_5912.3** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **PROTECTING THE RAINBOW NATION: BUILDING THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE WE DESERVE** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

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**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

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**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** |  |  |
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| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? |  |  |
| Optional/General comments | **Review Comments**  **Protecting the Rainbow Nation: Building the South African Police Service We Deserve**  Abstract Gaps  The summary briefly describes the study, although it lacks detailed quantitative outcomes or statistical data produced from the examination. The methodologies adopted for qualitative and quantitative analysis lack clarity, perhaps reducing the overall comprehension of the study's methodology.  Need to improve  Incorporate exact data points or results to elucidate the findings more effectively. Elucidate methodological techniques, including succinct references to sample sizes and data-gathering procedures.  Introduction (Pages 1-2) Research Gap  The introduction gives information concerning the systemic issues facing SAPS but fails to adequately express the unique long-term repercussions of apartheid-era policing on contemporary police culture and community interactions. A gap emerges in recognising the quantitative and qualitative growth of policing legitimacy throughout time. Engagement with comparable foreign frameworks or effective post-conflict or post-authoritarian police reforms that can provide insights for South Africa is scarce.  Need to improve  Future study ought to incorporate a complete historical analysis that amalgamates qualitative narratives with longitudinal data to understand the persistent repercussions of apartheid police. A more explicit inclusion of worldwide best practices might offer a baseline for reform measures.  Principal Obstacles Confronting SAPS (Pages 7-8) Research Gap  The discourse concerning police culture, leadership volatility, and community trust is widespread yet weak in detailed empirical data linking particular institutional actions to public impressions. The explanation of the entrenched resistance to reform inside SAPS is lacking, notably about how internal cultural hurdles sustain problems such as corruption and inefficiency.  Need to improve  It is vital to perform empirical, mixed-methods research to determine the association between police culture and opposition to reform. Research on internal organisational change processes and leadership dynamics could uncover challenges to institutional reform.  Subsequent Research and Potential Avenues (Page 8) Research Gap  Research Deficiencies: Researchers designate crucial areas, including longitudinal studies, leadership diversity, community-led models, and international practices; yet they lack complete frameworks for applying these research agendas. The examination of the consequences of gender and racial diversity on institutional transformation is still young, with less consideration given to the success of present diversity programs.  Necessity for Enhancement: We must create targeted longitudinal research approaches to measure reform results throughout several decades, perhaps including panel studies. Comparative case studies of community-led approaches under parallel conditions may provide important insights. Prioritise measuring the effects of diversity and gender-sensitive training using strong evaluation methodologies.  Challenges in the Implementation of Community-Led Policing (Pages 6-8) Research Gaps: Although the promise of community-oriented policing is acknowledged, studies have inadequately investigated the hurdles to its consistent implementation across varied geographies and socio-economic settings. Empirical information about the correlation between community participation and crime reduction measures or trust restoration is scant.  Need to improve  Execute detailed process assessments to detect systemic constraints and enablers of effective community policing. Conduct case-control studies to analyse the influence of community participation on public trust and crime rates.  Political Influence and Leadership (Pages 4-6, 8) Research Gap  Current studies identify political influence, yet they lack rigorous, empirical assessments that prove causation and delineate implications for police efficacy, morale, and public legitimacy. The impact of patronage networks and internal power dynamics deserves additional examination.  Need to improve  Systematic investigations, comprising qualitative case studies and quantitative measures, are needed to establish causal linkages. We apply policy research to establish governance systems that insulate SAPS from undue political influence.  Technology Integration (Pages 7-8) Research Gap  The promise of technology instruments such as AI and predictive policing is acknowledged but remains insufficiently explored within the socio-political framework of South Africa. We have poorly addressed the privacy, and operational challenges connected with technology implementation.  Need to improve  There is a demand for pilot efforts and effect evaluations of technologies customised for South African situations. An ethnographic study is essential to investigate community opinions of monitoring and technology accountability approaches.  Comprehensive Deficiencies in Literature and Methodological Considerations Research Gaps  A strong dependence on descriptive or cross-sectional research constrains knowledge of long-term reform trajectories. Comprehensive, multi-level assessments that concurrently encompass structural, cultural, and community views are underdeveloped in the literature.  Need to improve  Develop longitudinal, mixed-methods research frameworks that blend quantitative crime trend analysis with qualitative ethnographic studies. Highlight participatory research methodologies that involve community perspectives and frontline people. Final Assessment The literature study finds that, although changes are extensively reported, there exists a substantial dearth of empirical, longitudinal, and intervention-focused research evaluating the results of these reforms. Interdisciplinary techniques incorporating organisational psychology, political science, and criminology are underutilised. Subsequent investigations should highlight longitudinal and intervention research approaches, pragmatic case studies, and participatory action research to build practical, context-specific reform solutions.  General instructions  Maintain uniformity in font and font size and referencing style. Do a grammar check before submission. |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
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| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Sawmya, India**