



<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Katsina Ala Benue State, Nigeria</b>
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**Title** **Katsina-Ala CPC MONTHLY MEETING (Capacity and Baseline Assessment)**

**Introduction Meeting objectives**

Lawyers Alert commenced the implementation of the “Empowering Community Policing Committees towards a right based approach to security sector governance” project in two LGAs (Guma and Kastina-Ala) of Benue State in 2023. This project is aimed at facilitating an effective working relationship between community members, security entities, and other key stakeholders through the use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that produce conflict and social disorder. The CPC have been established in both locations with a membership of 20 persons across different stakeholders in the community.

At the monthly meeting of the CPC be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024 in both Guma and Katsina Ala LGAs a baseline survey and capacity assessment was administered to members of the CPC in both locations to establish the current situation as it relates to community members and security sector partnership, security situation and how it impacts the community. The community is expected to own the operations of the CPC and conceptualize ensuring results are recorded in both project locations.

**Welcome Address/Goodwill Messages**

Day 1 session of baseline assessment was facilitated by Lazarus Mom, Solumtochukwu Ozobulu and Grace Udoo Tyowua.

The welcome address was given by Lazarus Mom the Director of programs HQ.

**II. Technical Sessions – Snapshot of key comments and findings related to the topic of presentation/discussion/ interactive sessions**

**DAY 1: BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

The administration of the baseline assessment is to ascertain the security situation in Katsina-ala through the perspectives of the Members of the CPC. This will enable Lawyers Alert to track the changes as their work progresses.

**SESSION 1: TOR**

At the inaugural meeting, the Terms of Reference (TOR) were disseminated among the members of the Community Policing Committee (CPC). Despite this, the TOR was presented during the session as a refresher to the CPC. The purpose was to reiterate the core roles and responsibilities of the CPC concerning the Community Policing project and its significance to the residents of Katsina-Ala. Leading



this session, Barrister Ozobulu navigated through each page of the TOR, addressing any inquiries or uncertainties raised by the CPC regarding its contents.

**Among the discussions during this session was the crucial matter of raising awareness about the project and its activities within Katsina-Ala, which was highlighted as a key responsibility of the CPC. Concerns were raised regarding the network coverage in certain areas, potentially hindering communication efforts with residents. However, a solution emerged when some members proposed utilizing Ashi Waves FM, known for broader coverage, particularly in remote areas, along with a popular Tiv session, popular among communities in Katsina-Ala.**

**Furthermore, the issue of establishing a medium for reporting or issuing early warnings to the police was deliberated upon. It was agreed that this aspect would be incorporated into their capacity assessment and subsequently addressed during the capacity-building session on Early Warning and Early Response (EWER), which includes discussions on communication channels.**

## **SESSION 2: INTERACTIVE SESSIONS ON SECURITY ISSUES AND SECURITY SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN K-ALA**

**During the CPC session, members engaged in deliberations concerning the distinctive security challenges prevalent in Katsina-Ala. ISP Daniel Atese, a CPC representative from the NPF, outlined the following security issues commonly encountered in the area: kidnapping and armed robbery. He emphasized that security personnel in Katsina-Ala are actively working to mitigate these challenges, expressing confidence that the CPC's involvement would enhance their effectiveness. Mr. James Mbakaan, representing the youth, affirmed the report, highlighting the collective responsibility of the community in addressing these issues.**

**In addition to the concerns raised, CPC member Gberikyo (NSCDC) identified local cultism and gangs as significant challenges in Katsina-Ala. Other notable mentions encompass communal clashes and Fulani herder-related banditry.**

A particularly alarming issue highlighted during the meeting was the emerging collaboration between bandits and Fulani herders, who are now uniting forces to displace people from their lands or provide muscle for the herders. These bandits, predominantly composed of local youths, are indigenous to the region, exchanging their services for financial gain.

ASP Idris Musa reiterated the importance of the CPC and vigilance to the environment by paying attention to the influx of cattle and new faces/or patterns.

## **Session 3: BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

**The baseline assessment was conducted through focused group discussions to gather comprehensive insights. To ensure confidentiality and foster an environment conducive to open participation, the attendees were divided into two groups: community members and security personnel. Facilitated by the LA team, both groups were guided through a series of 21 questions addressing various aspects of the security situation in Katsina-Ala. The facilitators provided clarifications and support,**



**particularly to those needing assistance to fully comprehend the questions, thus enabling accurate responses.**

## **DAY 2:**

### **Session 1: CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

The second day commenced with a recap of the previous day's meeting. ASP Idris of the Nigerian Police Force gave the recap highlighting issues discussed especially as it relates to the security concerns in Katsina-Ala and the robust explanation session of the CPC terms of reference.

Solumtochukwu esq. explained the capacity assessment document to the CPC members entertaining and addressing issues and questions. Afterwards, members of the Community Policing Committee filled out the assessment document.

The meeting proceeded with the CPC charting a course for their intervention in Katsina-Ala LGA. An action plan was developed with activities outlined to drive awareness creation and promote security sector accountability in the LGA. CPC members jointly agreed on the need to engage young people on issues of security and the identification of early warning signs to aid early response by the security sector actors.

### **ACTION PLAN**

- **Sensitization sessions in 4 tertiary institutes and 4 secondary school**
- **Radio Engagement for awareness creation**
- **Engagement with associations existing in K-Ala e.g Motorcycle, Motor drivers**
- **Engagement with the Christian Association of Nigeria Katsina-Ala branch: To build the capacity of members who will disseminate the messages to members in their various places of worship.**
- **Engagement with IMAM to promote the message of human rights, accountability and early warning to members.**
- **Engagement with Women leaders through the Food Sellers Association**
- **Election at the next meeting of the CPC to establish the leadership of the structure**
- **Create a WhatsApp group to facilitate prompt communication among members.**

Facilitating the concluding part of the meeting, Solumtochukwu Esq. inquired from the CPC members about the support they will require from Lawyers Alert to improve the quality of the work of the committee.

### **NEEDS**

- **A Secretariat**
- **Capacity Building**
- **IEC materials**
- **Funds for the outlined**

**The meeting concluded with the CPC selecting 22<sup>nd</sup> of May as the date for their next meeting.**



### III. Action Plans

### IV. Meeting Outcomes

#### Meeting Outcomes Day 1

1. Baseline Assessment was administered
2. Capacity assessment was conducted

### V. Pictures



Promoting Human Rights!



**Pictures of Day 1: Baseline Assessment**





Promoting Human Rights!



Group picture of CPC members

LAW



**Pictures of Day2: Capacity Assessment**

**Photos of participants at the workshop**