

Something Old, Something New: The Nigeria Police in Metropolitan Kano

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This paper addresses the ways in which an established police force in Anglophone West Africa responds to politically sensitive 'modernisation' reforms such as community policing and intelligence-led policing. Specifically, it considers the ways in which the Nigeria Police Force in metropolitan Kano (the biggest city in Nigeria's Islamic north) accommodates and adapts measures promoting Western forms of professional and proactive policing. It proposes that while such reforms are often publically welcomed, the measures associated with them are typically manipulated by local and national elites in order to achieve predetermined gains. In other words, the Nigerian police is not committed to the liberal knowledge and practice underpinning modernisation projects as such, but it is - subject to Kano's policing realities - committed to accommodating and 'Nigerianising' certain aspects of that culture.