
Leveraging Technological Advancements in Policing for Sustainable Infrastructure and Effective AfCFTA Implementation in Ghana

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Abstract

Robust security on the African continent has been recognised as a necessary precondition for effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Ghana, as a host of the (AfCFTA), therefore, has a major role to play in ensuring security for the sustainable infrastructure and effective AfCFTA Implementation. This study aims to examine how the Ghana Police Service is leveraging technological advancements in policing to enhance sustainable infrastructure and facilitate the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Ghana. This study is based on qualitative research for data collection and thematic data analysis to analyse data from fifteen participants.

The study established that technology is used by the Ghana police service to improve response time and crime prevention, improve communication and coordination and economic benefit through enhanced security. While technology has notable benefits on policing, the study also discovered challenges, such as infrastructural and resource constraints, resistance to change and institutional barriers, and privacy and ethical concerns. the study concludes by making recommendations for practice and policy directions.

Keywords: African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Economic growth, Law enforcement, public safety, technological policing

Introduction

Regional integration has been a major topic on the African policy agenda long before the African Union (AU) was founded in 2000. Trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) started on January 1, 2021 (Apiko et al., 2020). Currently, over thirty nations have accepted the agreement, which intends to link fifty-five (55) nations and create a market with 1.3 billion people.

With enhanced trade and investment, increased value addition, and productivity growth, the AfCFTA is expected to create a positive feedback loop that will increase market opportunities, improve social inclusion, create more and better employment opportunities, and open up new markets (Apiko et al., 2020). According to AU estimates, the AfCFTA will have a major effect on trade relations amongst its signatories and, if it is successful in eliminating a larger share of the continent's 6.1% average intra-regional trade tariffs, will boost intra-African trade by 60% by 2024 (World Bank Group, 2020). The Agreement will strengthen African development, change, and integration (World Bank Group, 2020). The AfCFTA continues to be the cornerstone of post-independence African nations' development strategies as a component of regional integration, helping them to overcome the negative impacts of the colonial legacy of fragmented African economies (Adeleke and Olawale, 2023).

Ghana has a key role to play in the implementation of the AfCFTA. Ghana serves as the host for the AfCFTA secretariat located in Accra, its capital city (Bayale et al., 2022). This essential role demonstrates Ghana's dedication to the AfCFTA's success and gives it a tactical edge in influencing the trade agreement's policies and implementation plans. Article 3 of the AfCFTA agreement mentions that the key objective of the AfCFTA is to boost intra-African trade (Odeku and Rikhotso, 2023). However, several additional policy enablers, such as policies, reforms, and investment, are also necessary for the AfCFTA to benefit African nations and residents fully. These include improving the business climate in African nations and enhancing infrastructure, transport corridors, and logistics. Similarly, this study argues that policing in Ghana is an essential component that can influence the effective implementation of the AfCFTA and achieving its goals. Sempijja (2020) posited that the AfCFTA will enable a more cooperative security regime to promote development. The main contention is that security and development reinforce one another. More concisely put, Paul Collier stated that closer cooperation between regions within the African Peace and Security Architecture will result in more intra-African trade, foreign direct investment between states, and protection of the informal sector, which accounts for more than 70% of trade in Africa because security and development are mutually reinforcing (Collier, 2016). Thus, the African Union recognises security as a key driver for implementing the AfCFTA.

The police department is acknowledged as the primary organization tasked with safeguarding people and property (Cordner, 2023). According to Zulyadi et al. (2020), policing includes structured methods of maintaining law and order, maintaining peace, investigating and preventing crimes, conducting various types of investigations and related information brokering, some of which may entail the deliberate use of force. In addition to offering a wide range of

services to the general public, the police are tasked with upholding the law, preventing crime, protecting people and their property, and maintaining peace and order (Cordner, 2023). The 1992 constitution recognizes the Ghana Police Service as the organization tasked with upholding social order and implementing the law in Ghana (Ayee, 2016).

The implication is that the Ghana Police Service is posed to ensure effective policing that promotes peace and protects individual lives and properties to ensure the effective implementation and success of the AfCFTA. Horst (2020) posited that technology permeates every part of society and changes how things are done daily. The widespread adoption of digital technologies, including smartphones, sophisticated algorithms, and high-speed internet, has led to the increased usage of social media platforms for communication and engagement between individuals and organizations (Horst, 2020). The technology acceptance theory, for example, argues that individuals and organisations, such as the Ghana Police Service may use technology in their day-to-day activities to improve efficiency (Silva, 2015).

This study, therefore argues that the Ghana Police Service may leverage the technology to enhance policing, protect individuals and property and promote peace thereby ensuring effective AfCFTA implementation in Ghana. However, there is a dearth of studies in Ghanaian literature on this. From this background that this study explored how the Ghana police service is leveraging technological advancements in policing for sustainable infrastructure and effective AfCFTA Implementation in Ghana.

Research Methods

Research approach

This study employed the qualitative research approach to gather and analyse data on leveraging technological advancements in policing for sustainable infrastructure and effective AfCFTA Implementation in Ghana. In qualitative research, ideas, opinions, or experiences are investigated by collecting and analysing non-numerical data (written, video, or audio) (Tuffour, 2020). It can be applied to provide fresh research ideas or obtain an in-depth understanding of an issue. The qualitative research approach enabled this researcher to interview experts and key informants in-depth to understand how the Ghana police service is leveraging technological advancements in policing for sustainable infrastructure and effective AfCFTA Implementation in Ghana (Tuffour, 2020).

Research designs

The design of this study was a descriptive case study. A descriptive case study design examines the traits of a particular phenomenon or the experiences of the study's primary subjects (Siedlecki, 2020). Descriptive study designs are helpful when detailing the desired characteristics of the sample under research. A descriptive study may also attempt to extrapolate the results from a representative sample to a broader target population (Siedlecki, 2020). The descriptive case study aided the researcher in describing how the Ghana Police Service is leveraging

technological advancements for sustainable infrastructure and effective AfCFTA Implementation in Ghana.

Research population

A population is a collection of people or topics with some distinguishing traits that can be used as a representative sample by researchers (Asiamah et al., 2017). The study population is comprised of police officers at the national headquarters. Focusing on officers at the national headquarters was vital because it enabled the study to assess the policies and practices championed by the police administration to ensure the effective leverage of technology in policing. Also, police officers stationed at the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana formed part of this study's population. Furthermore, members of management of the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana formed part of the study population. The researcher believed that by collecting and examining data from these demographic groups, an administrative and practical viewpoint on applying social media to tech-enhanced policing might be obtained.

Sampling procedure and Sample size

The purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants for this study. Purposive sampling, sometimes referred to as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling, depends on the researcher's judgment in choosing the units (individuals, cases/organisations, events, or data points) that will be examined (Campbell et al., 2020). Purposive sampling was used in this study because the researcher intended to select a specific group of individuals from whom relevant data could be gathered and analysed to meet the study's objectives (Campbell et al., 2020). By using purposive sampling, the researcher selected police officers and management of the AfCFTA secretariate in Ghana who possess relevant knowledge of the phenomenon under study.

Since it was not feasible for the researcher to interact with all the entities within the chosen population, it was significant to determine the appropriate sample size. Lakens (2022) defined sample size as the number of observations or individuals included in a study or experiment. It is the number of individuals, items, or data points selected from a larger population to represent it statistically. The study used the 'point of saturation' principle to determine the sample size (Hennink and Kaiser, 2020). By using the point of saturation, the study gathered data from 12 participants. The 12-sample size was appropriate because the collection of additional data was not generating new themes. Six of the participants were police officers stationed at the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana, three were from the police administration at the national headquarters. Three were from the management of the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana.

Instrument and data collection procedure

A semi-structured interview guide was used to gather data for the study. Before the interview started, the researcher gave the participants information about the purpose of the study and obtained informed consent. After that, the researcher conducted interviews with those who consented to participate in the study. Data for the study was collected in person through interviews. The interview was held at the locations of various personnels' stations with members

of the Ghana Police Service and management of the AfCFTA secretariat. On the other hand, the interviewer and the interviewee decided on a convenient place. The researcher asked the participants' permission to use the audio recording of the interview for future reference. An average of forty minutes were spent in each participant interview.

Data analysis

Thematic analysis was employed to analyse the data for this study. The researcher followed the six phases Braun and Clark (2006) suggested in analysing the data for this study. The interview's audio recordings were transcribed by the researcher. The researcher read through the interview transcript several times to ensure familiarity with the data set. The researcher then began to find codes and produce emerging themes from the interview to respond to the research questions. Direct quotes from the interview that were supported by a narrative were used to present the study's findings.

Ethical consideration

The study followed ethical principles for the conduct of social science research. In the first place, the researcher sought the participants' informed consent before data collection. The study also ensured the confidentiality of the data collected from participants by ensuring that no unauthorised party had access to the data. Furthermore, the researcher used pseudonyms in reporting the study findings to ensure the participants' anonymity. The study also ensured that previous studies and researchers whose work was used in this study were duly acknowledged.

FINDINGS

This study sought to achieve two main objectives; to ascertain the impact of technological advancement on effective policing and the implementation of AfCFTA and the challenges of integrating technology in policing in Ghana. The findings are presented as follows;

Impact of technological advancement on effective policing and the implementation of AfCFTA

Three main themes emerged from the interview on how leveraging technology improves the effectiveness of policing and the implementation of AfCFTA. The themes include improved response time and crime prevention, communication and coordination and economic benefits through enhanced security.

Response time and crime prevention

The interview with the participants, who were police officers and management of the AfCFTA secretariate in Ghana, shows that leveraging technology in policing improves response time and crime prevention in Ghana. It was revealed that the police service uses real-time tracking and data analytics technologies, improving public safety and economic stability. The participants highlighted how the incorporation of technologies has reduced the time needed for the police to arrive at crime scenes. For example, one of the participants said

“The use of technologies such as CCTV cameras enable us to undertake real-time monitoring and respond to crime incidences within the shortest time. This has reduced the time we used to respond to crimes and has played a pivotal role in stopping crimes before they get out of hand” [P2, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

The participants also expressed how data analytics enhances the decision-making process of the Ghana police service to improve security. It was revealed that the use of data analytics in policing helps in strategic planning and effective resource allocation for the prevention of crime and the successful implementation of AfCFTA.

One of the participants stated

“We get data from the police on the crime rate in a specific area we want to venture. For example, we recently obtained data on the rate of cybercrime in Ghana from the Police Service, which helped in decision-making. We can analyse and predict crime patterns and trends and the possible hotspots of crime, and make the necessary arrangements to ensure the effective implementation of the AfCFTA in Ghana [P5, Employee, AfCFTA Secretariate].

The foregoing shows that the use of technology provides a robust infrastructure for the Ghana police service to improve response time and crime prevention in Ghana thereby promoting peace, safety and the effective implementation of the AfCFTA.

Improved communication and coordination

Participants expressed that the integration technology has improved real-time communication and coordination between the police service and other security stakeholders. The participants were of the view the improved communication between the police and stakeholders has improved law enforcement and regulations regarding the implementation of the AfCFTA. One of the participants emphasized;

“The use of integrated communication media has revolutionised our capacity to partner with other agencies. We can share data and information quickly which helps in the enforcement of the rules and regulations regarding the AfCFTA” [P11, Police officer, AfCFTA Secretariate].

Another participant also stated;

“The integration of technology allows for instant messaging and video conferencing between our partners which helps us to quickly gather our team from different locations to attend to emerging issues. Thus, real-time communication improves our capacity to respond to crime and enforce regulations” [P3, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

The implication is that the Ghana Police Service leverages on the advanced use of technologies to improve communication and coordination which is essential for the implementation of the AfCFTA. One of the participants had this to say;

“Technology has provided us with advancement communication systems which have enhanced our internal corporation and also interaction with external stakeholders such as customs officials, trade representatives and local businesses” [P4, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

The participant accounts together demonstrate how sophisticated communication platforms have greatly improved stakeholder and police department coordination and collaboration. As a result, the AfCFTA's laws and regulations are being enforced more successfully, which eventually helps the region's larger economic integration and development objectives.

Economic benefit through enhanced security

It emerged from the interview that leveraging technology provides economic benefits through enhanced security. The participants expressed that the use of technologies in policing has improved the safety and security in Ghana which, in turn, has fostered stable trade and investment for economic growth within the framework of the AfCFTA. The interview showed that technology fosters the adoption of improved security measures that have reduced crime rates and enhanced the safety of business operations. For instance, one of the participants said;

“We have observed a significant decrease in criminal activities in trade zones with the deployment of advanced surveillance systems and predictive analytics. Because of these businesses and investors now feel more secure about the security of their business dealings.” [P6, Employee, AfCFTA Secretariate]

One of the participants also said;

“The security improvement has not only protected businesses from thieves and fraudsters, it has also attracted additional investors. Now, we have observed investors have confidence in the Ghana Police Service to protect their lives and businesses; and as such they are more willing to engage in economic activities and create jobs in the country” [P5, Employee, AfCFTA Secretariate]

The participants further expressed that leveraging technology in policing can have a long-term economic advantage in implementing the AfCFTA. The participants indicated that firms and investors can now focus much attention on the growth and expansion of their businesses. At the same time, the Ghana Police Service leverages technology to improve security in the country. A participant said;

“The utilisation of technology in policing can have a greater positive impact on the economy in the long run. This is because now businesses and investors can concentrate

their attention on the advancement and growth of their businesses. Security issues will no longer border businesses and investors so much” [P7, Employee, AfCFTA Secretariate]

In sum, the views expressed by the participants demonstrate that the use of technology in policing has provided a safer and more stable trading environment as a result of the widespread implementation of improved security measures. This increased security has boosted economic growth and supported the larger goals of the AfCFTA framework by lowering crime, attracting investors, and releasing companies off security burdens to focus more on growth.

Challenges of integrating technology in the policing in Ghana to enhance effective implementation of the AfCFTA

The study also assessed the challenges that impede the integration of technology in policing in Ghana to enhance the effective implementation of the AfCFTA. The key themes that emerged include infrastructural and resource constraints, resistance to change and institutional barriers, and privacy and ethical concerns.

Infrastructural and resource constraints

The interview with the participants, who were police officers and employees at the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana showed that infrastructural and resource constraints represent major factors that impede the effective integration of technology in policing for the implementation of AfCFTA. It was revealed that inadequate financial and human resources in Ghana hindered the effectiveness of digital infrastructure such as robust internet connectivity and improved mobile applications that could enhance the incorporation of technology in policing. One of the participants opined;

“Despite the possible benefits of technologies in policing, our capacity to fully utilise these technologies is greatly hampered by poor and erratic internet access. We usually experience unstable networks which impede real communication and data sharing among stakeholders” [P2, Police Officer, National Headquarters]

The participants also narrated how inadequate technologies hinder the effectiveness of policing. A participant had this to say;

“We expect to effectively utilise technologies such as sophisticated surveillance and data analysis tools but we do not have the adequate tools which always leaves us frustrated. It is difficult to meet the demands of modern policing of the limited availability of technological resources.” [P4, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

It was further revealed that the lack of adequate resources and financial constraints limit the long-term planning and decisions of the police service. This is what a participant had to say;

“The inadequate infrastructure and resources affect our daily activities as well as our long-term planning. It is difficult for us to fully integrate and maintain cutting-edge

technology in our policing activities without the necessary support” [P11, Police officer, AfCFTA Secretariate].

That’s the participants were that the integration of sophisticated policing technology is severely hampered by resource and infrastructure constraints. The efficacy of modern policing efforts is hindered by insufficient technological tools and unreliable internet access, which makes it necessary to make significant improvements in infrastructure and resource allocation to fully reap the benefits of advanced technologies in real-time data sharing and communication.

Resistance to change and institutional barriers

The interview further revealed that resistance to change and institutional barriers impede the full integration and utilisation of technology in policing. The participants expressed that the majority of the policers do not have the required literacy skills to function with technologies in the day-to-day policing hence they attempt to oppose its integration for the fear of losing their job. Also, some of the police officers are accustomed to the traditional method of policing and do not want to embrace change. For instance, one of the participants stated;

“One of the major challenges we have with the integration of technology is resistance from some of the officials especially the ones without adequate digital literacy. They feel that the integration of technologies may lead to their demotion or other junior officers with digital literacy may overpass them in their ranks; hence there is fierce opposition from leaderships and ranks and files” [P3, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

Another also had this to say;

Many of the police officers are familiar with using traditional strategies in policing; hence they exhibit great aversion towards change. The adoption process is slowed down by their scepticism toward new technology and preference for sticking with what they know. [P1, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

It was also revealed that there is an institutional and bureaucratic impediment that delays the decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of technologies in the police service. This is what a participant said;

“The hierarchical structure within the Ghana Police Services also impedes the effective implementation of technologies. For example, decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of a particular technology may have to move through a long bureaucratic process which delays decision-making concerning the integration of technologies in policing” P4, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

The responses from the interview indicate that the integration of technological advancement in policing is challenged by institutional barriers, cultural attitudes and resistance to change. These factors make it difficult for new technologies to be adopted and used effectively, which has an impact on the effectiveness of law enforcement and the AfCFTA's implementation.

Privacy and ethical concerns

It emerged from the interview that privacy and ethical issues present a major challenge for the full integration of technology in policing. The participants expressed that the use of technology in law enforcement practices such as data collection and monitoring is interfered with by privacy issues. The problem has to do with how to strike a balance between personal freedoms and security, affecting not only how the public views the police but also how technology solutions are implemented. One of the participants said;

“There is a real concern of privacy issues in the integration of technology in policing. There have been situations where individuals have reported that their private lives are being monitored without their permission making them suspicious of the police” [P2, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

Another participant also stated;

"Majority of individuals do not cooperate with the police and law enforcement initiatives when they perceive that their privacy is being violated. Because of this, they refuse to partner with the police on the use of technology in data collection or data sharing. [P3, Police Officer, National Headquarters].

Participants expressed that the integration of technology in law enforcement is severely hampered by privacy and ethical issues. These problems highlight the necessity for careful consideration of privacy rights and ethical use of technology, as well as how the public perceives and trusts the police force.

Discussion

The study's findings have shown that leveraging technology for policing has several benefits that can enhance the implementation of the AfCFTA. It is revealed that technology in policing improves crime prevention and response times, enhances communication and coordination and provides economic benefits, and all these benefits serve as the necessary conditions for the implementation of the AfCFTA.

The use of technology such as GPS tracking, real-time data analytics, and predictive policing systems enables the Ghana police service to attend to crime scenes quickly to deal with emerging dangers and prevent criminal activities. For example, police patrols and dispatch centres use GPS tracking in patrol vehicles to locate and send the closest unit to a crime scene significantly reducing response times (Wain and Ariel, 2014). The implication is that the Ghana police service can improve the safety and security of the country and make it more attractive for investors and businesses to operate in Ghana, thereby enhancing the implementation of the AfCFTA. Moreover, real-time data analytics enhances the collaboration between the Ghana Police Service and the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana to easily detect patterns and criminal hotspots and pre-emptive steps to stop crimes before they happen. This supports the findings by Pramanik et al. (2017) who indicated that the use of real-time data analytics helps in the efficient allocation of resources to deter criminal activities. This is because by analysing past data, predictive policing

techniques foresee possible criminal activity help the police and the AfCFTA secretariate in Ghana to effectively identify criminal hotspots and channel their resources effectively towards these areas to deal with crime before it happens. Moreover, the use of emerging technologies such as computerised license plate readers and facial recognition advances the capacity of police officials to quickly identify and capture offenders (Grana and Windell, 2021). This equips the police to apprehend criminal suspects within a shorter time of committing a crime. Thus, technology provides more effective measures that support the efforts of the Ghana Police Service in dealing with criminal activities in the country to protect lives and property, which tends to attract businesses and investors.

It has also been revealed that the integration of technologies in policing improves communication and coordination between law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders for the effective implementation of the AfCFTA. Digital technologies such as smartphones, social media and the Internet have improved communication between agencies and individuals. The Ghana Police Service shares information on security issues with relevant stakeholders such as the AfCFTA. Also, the officers within the Ghana Police Service use these technologies for effective communication which guarantees coordinated responses to emergencies. Fussey and Sandhu (2022) asserted that digital technologies provide cutting-edge communication abilities which enable real-time coordination and data sharing between relevant stakeholders for effective law enforcement operations. The use of technology in policing also makes it easier for the Ghana Police Service to collaborate across boundaries with other law enforcement agencies through the exchange of data and intelligence. The implication is that agencies, especially those within the African continent, can collaborate, pool resources together and share important information through centralised data and information-sharing systems to prevent crime. Enhancing operational efficiency and fostering a collaborative approach to combating complex criminal activities, such as organized crime and terrorism, are two benefits of this enhanced communication and coordination (Avgerinos et al., 2024).

The use of technologies in policing also has several economic benefits, especially concerning the implementation of the AfCFTA. The use of technology provides a greater opportunity for the police service to improve security, which is a necessary pre-condition for investment and economic activities to flourish (Navarro, 2023). Leveraging technology for policing can reduce the crime rate and improve public safety, which in turn provides a stable and secure environment to attract investors and stimulate economic growth. Also, technologically advanced security protects supply networks and important infrastructure which ensures uninterrupted operation of trade and business. The major aim for the implementation of the AfCFTA is to enhance intra-African trade, the success of this initiative depends on a secure and peaceful environment (Fofack and Mold, 2021). The adoption of technology in policing helps to protect trade routes, commercial centres, and transportation networks. Consequently, businesses may function with assurance, bolstering stability and expansion of the economy.

Notwithstanding the benefits of technology in policing, the study observed some challenges that may impede the effective integration of technology in policing in Ghana. It has been found that

infrastructure and resource gaps prevent the effective integration of technology in the Ghana Police Service. The Ghana Police Service is unable to purchase sophisticated technological devices such as GPS tracking and surveillance devices due to tight finances and inadequate infrastructure. Also, factors such as poor internet connectivity, and erratic power supply further worsen the capacity of the Ghana Police Service to integrate technologies (Braimah and Mbowura, 2014). Institutional barriers and resistance to change pose significant barriers to the integration of technology in policing. It is revealed that the structure of the Ghana Police Service and the bureaucratic process slows down decisions concerning the adoption and implementation of new technologies (Gratz and Looney, 2020). Some officers also feel insecure about the introduction of technologies into the police service due to their low digital literacy. The majority of these officers are used to the traditional way of policing and are unable to make use of technology (Gratz and Looney, 2020). This influences them to resist any attempt to implement technologies in day-to-day policing for fear of losing their jobs. Finally, the study observed ethical and privacy issues concerning the use of technology by the Ghana Police Service to enhance law enforcement. technologies such as drones are being used for surveillance—a less obvious and acceptable use. It is revealed that the use of technologies for surveillance purposes is extremely troublesome because it violates citizens' fundamental right to privacy (Dieu, 2023). Furthermore, when these drones are outfitted with facial recognition technology, the intrusiveness becomes more concerning.

Conclusion

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement establishes the largest free trade area globally. Through the agreement, 1.3 billion individuals in 55 nations can be connected, and their combined gross domestic product (GDP) will be worth US\$3.4 trillion (World Bank Group, 2020). It can help 30 million people escape extreme poverty, but realizing its full potential will require implementing important trade facilitation and policy changes. It is noteworthy that Ghana has a key role to play in the implementation of the AfCFTA as it harbours the headquarters. The African Union recognises that security on the African continent is one of the major factors that can influence the successful implementation of the AfCFTA. This study therefore focused on leveraging technological advancements in policing for sustainable infrastructure and effective AfCFTA implementation in Ghana. The study has established that the technology is used by the Ghana police service to improve response time and crime prevention, improve communication and coordination and economic benefit through enhanced security. While technology has notable benefits on policing, the study also discovered some challenges such as infrastructural and resource constraints, resistance to change and institutional barriers, and privacy and ethical concerns. The study concludes by stating that the Ghana Police Service can leverage technology to enhance policing and security in the country; consequently, improving the implementation of the AfCFTA. However, stakeholders need to address the identified challenges to fully leverage the benefit of technology in policing. This study makes the following recommendations. The study recommends that a significant investment should be made to provide robust infrastructure and training programmes to police officers for the effective adoption of technology in daily police operations. The police should also promote engagement with the police and foster transparency around utilising new technologies to maintain trust with the public. Policymakers

should also develop integrated communication systems to ensure seamless information sharing and coordination among various departments and stakeholders. These measures will enhance the effectiveness of policing and support the successful implementation of the AfCFTA.

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