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STRATEGIC MEASURES TO CURB CRIME RATES IN NAIROBI

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This study has been undertaken to establish the impact of crime on businesses and residents in Nairobi by considering the main causes and trends of crime. The role played by street families on the increased urban insecurity is discussed. Information about crimes collected from residents, business firms, relevant authorities and records has been analyzed. The data has been analyzed to formulate a crime prevention strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Growing urbanization has resulted in increased crimes and insecurity in most cities of the world and has caused global concern. Attacks on businesses and individuals adversely affect business viability, economic stability and in turn social prosperity. In addition to the human suffering inflicted, crime is a major impediment to development. Corporate investors, international development agencies and local artisans alike are discouraged from initiating or sustaining economic activity by the threat of crime and violence. If the security of the cities cannot be guaranteed, then the nation cannot be expected to move safely along the path of economic and social development.

Crimes of burglary, robbery, vandalism, shoplifting, employee theft and fraud cost businesses considerable revenue each year. Crime can be particularly devastating to businesses that lose both customers and employees when crime and fear claim a neighbourhood. When firms (especially small businesses) are victims of crime, they often react by changing their hours of operation, raising prices to cover losses, relocating outside the community, or simply closing. Fear of crime isolates businesses much like fear isolates individuals and this isolation increases vulnerability to crime.

In 1992, crime cost the Australian business community over \$4 billion. In times of economic recession crime can be the last straw that sends a business to the wall. This \$4 billion could reduce the unemployment queues by 100,000 people. Anticipated trends of crime against businesses include more sophisticated frauds, increasing conflict between marketing strategy and crime prevention, decreasing regulatory protection against fraudulent suppliers and many other unwelcome surprises for business managers.

Crimes against businesses costs the UK economy 18.8 billion pounds (\$31.21 billion) per year with firms more than twice as likely to be the victims of crime than individuals according to a major new survey on business crime published by the British Chambers Commerce. The BCC's Business Crime Survey 2001 shows 58 percent of business report having been a victim of crime in the last 12 months, compared with 27 percent of individuals. The survey reveals that an average crime costs a company 5000 pounds (\$8300) per year and mainly results in a disruption of trading (30 per cent). Firms also suffer higher rates of victimization than individuals, with more than one fifth of businesses experiencing a crime at least once every two months. Alarmingly, more than one third of businesses claimed that they had never received crime reduction advice while 82 per cent of companies reported that they were not aware of a community safety partnership in their area.

Kenya's security situation has deteriorated in recent years particularly in the country's urban centres. There has been an upsurge of car jacking, bank robberies, child-killings and burglaries, among other offenses. Moreover, the situation is aggravated by the unchecked influx of small arms into the country and their subsequent misuse. Nairobi has also experienced the wrath of terrorists. On August 1998, the US Embassy was bombed, killing 213 people and injuring many more in the vicinity of the Embassy. The US embassy subsequently relocated to a different location.

Business firms have experienced break-ins resulting in the loss of equipment such as computers, which has caused fear and insecurity among businessmen in Nairobi. The decay of the moral value system in society has resulted in the increase of the number of street children in Nairobi. The traditional cultural factors seem to be disappearing and most of the people are not following the rich old cultural practice. This has deprived needy people the traditional protection and welfare from the clan which was common before. If measures are not taken to control this situation, street families will be a major source of future crimes in the city. Moreover, the conflict in the neighbourhood is one of the reasons of increased crimes as guns are now easily available due to the influx of refugees in the country. Crime and insecurity are important issues to a citizen and besides have

become a major problem facing the country. Crime is intriguing; it is not surprise that most of us deplore criminal acts while at the same time being both sinners and common offenders. Nairobi's high crime levels are spreading as a result of worsening poverty and ethnic prejudice culminating in violence and rising banditry in the northeast. Moreover, an increase in the use of guns underlies the rapid increase in violent crime.

Nairobi's high crime levels are spreading as a result of worsening poverty and ethnic prejudice culminating in violence and rising banditry in the northeast. Moreover, an increase in the use of guns underlies the rapid increase in violent crime.

The findings of International Civil Service Commission depicted Nairobi as one of the world's most crime-ridden capital cities. This report has been defended by United Nations office in Nairobi and as a consequence Nairobi has been downgraded from a B to a C status in security rating. The new rating means that Nairobi, as a headquarter of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Center for Human Settlement (Habitat), is more of a hardship posting than Bogota, Colombia which is plagued by drugrelated violence or Jerusalem, where fighting rages between Israelis and Palestinians.

According to the Nairobi Crime Survey Report (NCSR, 2001) the major causes of crime in the city are: Poverty, drugs, greed, weapons in the wrong hands, increase of street families, lack of street lights, laziness, insanity and heredity.

All forms of crime are related to a societal context. As economic and social conditions change, so do the extent and form of crime. In recent times, society has come to accept crime as a way of life and thus adopted the attitude of perceiving crime as an inalienable evil that has to be tolerated and with which one has to learn to live. In Nairobi for instance many victims of crime opt not to involve the authorities because experience either previous or by other victims has shown that very little is done in terms of either apprehending the criminals or preferring charges. Even when the appropriate action is taken, the process of justice takes so long that by the time it is concluded the victim has already suffered irreparable damage. The general feeling is that judicial system has a fair share of corruption and people are not getting adequate justice from the courts. The current government has acknowledged this feeling and is attempting to rectify the situation and trying to restore faith in the judicial system.

The general economic condition became quite bad since the late eighties and the country has been starved for funds from international organizations (like IMF and donor nations) because of alleged corruption and mismanagement in high places of government. The declining economic situation has resulted in increased crimes in Kenya, and particularly in Nairobi. Most of Sub-Saharan Africa has been classified as a low income economy (World Development Report, 2000). Exports have drastically declined as compared to imports, with exception of *goods and services*, where the decline has not been that sharp. However, as compared to high income economies the situation is pathetic even in this sector.

	Sub-Saharan Africa		High income	Ratios		
	Export Import		Exports Imports		Export	Import
1980	87,905	81,894	1,680,398	1,732,925	1:19	1:21
1997	100,807	106,398	5,195,331	5,022,907	1:52	1:47

Table 1:	Goods and Services (\$ 1	Million)
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World Development Report 2000 and author's calculations.

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The export turnover ratio which was 1:19 for Sub-Saharan Africa in 1980 compared to high economies has dropped to 1:52 in 1997. Similarly for the import turnover which was 1:21 has dropped to 1:47 for goods and services. This has adversely affected the tourism sector in the country. The recent terrorist attack and the SARS virus has made the situation worse.

In Kenya, as compared to 1980-90, almost all sectors of the economy have shown an overall decline during 1990-98. Even to the current time in 2003, economic activity has not improved. The current government has presented a fairly good budget for economic development during 2003-04, but the result of this is yet to be seen.

	1980-90	1990-98	Relative change %
GDP	4.2	2.2	-47.62
Agriculture (Va)	3.3	1.2	-63.64
Industry (Va)	3.9	2.0	-48.72
Service (Va)	4.9	3.5	-28.57
Export of goods and	4.3	2.7	-37.21
Services			

Table 2: Average Annual Growth (%)

World Development Report 2000 and author's calculation. Va: value added.

Although GDP has increased from \$7,262 billion in 1980 to \$11,083 billion in 1998, the percentages of value added have dropped in agriculture (33 to 29), industry (21 to 16) and manufacturing (13 to 10). It is only in services where an increase from 47 to 55 percentage is recorded. The gross domestic investment has reduced from 29 percent to 18 percent and the gross domestic saving has also dropped from 18 percent to 13 percent. The central government finances depended on tax revenue at 19.2 percent in 1980 which increased to 23.4 percent in 1997 of the GDP. The balance of payments was worse in 1997 than in 1980 due to higher imports than exports. Net income also dropped further from -\$194M in 1980 to -\$232M in 1997. Financial aid has reduced considerably from 1990 to 1997.

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	et private pital flow	Foreign direct investment	External debt	Official Development assistance	
	(\$M)	(\$M)	(\$M)	\$ per capita	%GNP
1990	124	57	7056	51	14.8
1997	-87	20	6486	16	4.6
Relative Chan	ige -170%	-64.91%	+8.08%	-68.63%	-68.92%

Table 3: Aid and Financial Flow

World Development Report 2000 and author's calculations

The external debt in 1997 was 49 percent of the GNP. The institutional credit rating for Kenya is 24.1, which is poor. The interest rate spread (measured as lending minus deposit rate) has increased from 5.1 in 1990 to 11.1 in 1998 and has adversely affected investment in the key industrial sector. The average annual growth rate in GNP is not very promising over the last decade, which has put severe burden on the residents of Nairobi.

Increased crimes are attributed to low morals, lack of self-discipline, poor leadership, lack of an effective code of ethics for public service, diminishing patriotism, increased individualistic attitude, and glorification of crime by media which highlights the weaknesses of the police force and the strength of thugs. The criminals are presented as heroes by newspaper headlines, which can be noted from the sample headlines: "Two Policemen Shot Dead," "Police Overpowered by Thugs," "Robbers Make Away with 96 Million." Such glorification leads to a perception of thugs by some young people as their role models. On the other hand, it seems that newspapers mostly publish articles on payments, even though the information may be worth publishing. It is also alleged that media persons sometimes blackmail businessmen and other executives to print articles about them or their organization. The police support seems to be discriminatory as observed in high-class areas versus low class areas and it is found that the police reservists serve mostly in privileged areas. The general image of police personnel is as harrassers who ask for bribes. Often sacked or forcefully retired police cooperate with criminals.

Poor remuneration and inadequate incentives to the police force make the situation worse. It is thought that some police are leasing arms to thugs. The slowing down of the economy and the collapse of the main agriculture sector have increased redundancy, which in turn have attracted unemployed people to crime. Globalization has also adversely affected the Kenyan economy and there have been job cuts in the government departments and parastatals which have further intensified the misery of people.

According to the Nairobi Central Business District Association (NCBDA) crime survey report, the areas rated most dangerous are: Tubman road, city market, Tom Mboya street, Globe cinema roundabout, Moi avenue near Khoja Mosque, Moktah Daddah street near Jevanjee Gardens and the Junction of Moi Avenue and Muranga road. In addition the report showed that over the last five to ten years the level of tolerance of crime has increased. Most residents consider criminality as an inevitable evil, with which they have to contend. Criminals have tended to intimidate the residents to an extent where ladies do not wear expensive jewelry while talking or driving in town; motorists have to drive with their windows rolled up and car doors securely locked. Those operating shops do so "behind bars" while others have installed electronically operated doors and have to screen their customers, a situation which does not allow them to be customer-friendly.

The NCBDA Crime Survey Report findings indicate that there is need for an urgent and practical intervention in order to address the current crime situation in Nairobi. The recommendations include:

- Preparation of an action plan for implementation of the interventions
- Civic Education
- Initiation of community policing schemes
- Grading the zones
- Cleaning the city
- Regulating hawking in Nairobi

CURRENT STUDY

In this investigation, the population of the study constituted Kenyans who have been residing in Nairobi for at least five years because during the five-year stay, they would have witnessed, experienced or heard of crime incidences. They would thus have a better perception of crime in Nairobi and the security measures to be undertaken. A sample of 132 respondents

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included the police force and the Special Crime Prevention Unit. The study was conducted through personal visits and questionnaires, having 14 questions to get primary data regarding the crime situation and people's perception of crime in Nairobi. The respondents were briefed on the research project. Further information has been collected from the Central Bureau of Statistic, Government Press, media, Internet search engines and libraries. The crime data for Nairobi and Kenya from 1991 to 1997 along with the probability of each crime was tabulated. Analysis of the primary data has provided insight about the causes of crime and suggestions to reduce it.

The current study, as well as the NCSR and NCBDA findings, has been used to formulate policy options. The significant (largely non-quantifiable) economic and emotional weight borne by the business community as a result of crime is also highlighted. One of the factors that hindered the collection of adequate data was lack of cooperation of some police personnel; they were hesitant to provide information on crime and declined to fill out the questionnaire. They were suspicious that the acquired information is likely to be published and may project an adverse image of the police forces. Another limitation to the study is that the crime statistics do not distinguish between an ordinary crime and the businesses.

Recent reports indicating the existence of an active terrorist network in Kenya adds a new dimension to the crime situation in Nairobi. This further complicates the situation and requires a much more dedicated and integrated effort to curb crime.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The existing research alerts us to the greater risk of criminal victimization faced by commercial premises as opposed to their residential counterparts. Smaller enterprises are particularly vulnerable since they lack a competitive edge and experience greater difficulty in absorbing the direct and indirect costs of victimization.

Crimes are major impediments to development. The corporate investors, International Development Agencies, local artisans and the merchants are discouraged due to the threat of crimes and violence.

The urban population (as percentage of total population) has increased

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from 16 percent (in 1980) to 31 percent (in 1998). This has put extra pressure on the facilities in the cities, particularly in Nairobi, and also provided a breeding ground for crime.

Offence	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
1. Murder	2071	1536	1517	1603	1720	1837	1954
Probability	0.02	0.015	0.008	0.017	0.02	0.016	.017
2. Manslaughter	497	498	434	389	416	443	470
Probability	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.012	0.004	0.004
3.Rape, including attempt	774	590	589	650	681	712	743
Probability	0.01	0.006	0.007	0.01	0.017	0.008	0.01
4. Assault	13464	12994	12324	11796	12213	12630	13047
Probability	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.125	0.13	0.118	0.113
5. Offences against person	1138	274	308	326	529	732	935
Probability	0.01	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.0131	0.008	0.01
6. Robberies Probability	11804 0.091	10197 0.10	9242 0.105	804 0.093	9554 0.003	10304	11054
7. Breakings	18419	18445	16867	16067	$16655 \\ 0.175$	17243	17831
Probability	0.15	0.171	0.192	0.17		0.156	0.151
8. Cattle Theft	4234	2844	3139	2946	3268	3590	3972
Probability	0.033	0.03	0.036	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.034
9. Theft of other livestock	832	537	600	636	685	734	783
Probability	0.01	0.01	0.007	0.007	0.13	0.008	0.010
10. Theft of over Kshs. 400	13206	9908	11323	11194	11697	12200	12703
Probability	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.116	0.124	0.11	0.11
11. Other thefts	$\begin{array}{c} 10804 \\ 0.084 \end{array}$	6473	5257	6072	7255	8438	9621
Probability		0.061	0.06	0.064	0.08	0.076	0.08
12. Theft from vehicles	2102	2115	2142	1758	1844	1930	2016
Probability	0.01	0.021	0.025	0.02	0.02	0.016	0.02
13. Theft of bicycles	789	787	796	661	693	725	757
Probability	0.023	0.006	0.01	0.007	0.01	0.008	0.01
14. Theft of produce	2942	1897	2495	1914	2171	2428	2685
Probability	0.023	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.026	0.02	
15. Theft by servants	6403	5515	5697	5543	5758	5973	6188
Probability	0.051	0.05	0.065	0.056	0.06	0.057	
16. Receiving stolen property	1182	977	1094	1050	1083	1116	1149
Probability	0.01	0.01	0.012	0.011	0.015	0.01	0.01
17. Offences against property	6169	5979	5626	5753	5857	5961	6065
Probability	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.061	0.06	0.055	0.05
18. All other penal offences	25832	20400	8417	17540	19613	21686	23759
Probability	0.201	0.2	0.096	0.185	0.193	0.20	0.205

Table 4: Penal Code Cases in Kenya and their Probabilities

Source: Statistical Abstract 2000, Central Bureau of Statistics and author's calculation

Offence	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Theft	78,886	65,674	64,278	62,398	66,520	70,642	74,824
Probability	0.643	0.644	0.732	0.659	0.654	0.65	0.647
Assault	15,376	13,858	13,221	12,772	13,423	14,074	14,725
Probability	0.125	0.136	0.15	0.135	0.132	0.13	0.127
Loss of human life	2,568	2,034	1,951	1,992	2,136	2,280	2,424
Probability	0.021	0.02	0.022	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021
Other Penal Cases	25,832	20,400	8,417	17,540	19,613	21,686	23,759
Probability	0.211	0.2	0.096	0.185	0.193	0.20	0.205
Total	122,662	101,966	87,867	94,702	101,692	108,682	115,732

Table 5: Consolidated Crimes in Kenya and their Probabilities

Source: Statistical Abstract 2000, Central Bureau of statistics and author's calculation

For every year (1991-1997) the proportion of theft in occurrence is higher than other offences, an indication that the trend has been quite high. Moreover it portrays the high level of poverty hence people are driven to steal. Besides the widespread unemployment is a contributing factor to increased theft. The crimes resulting to the loss of human remains are almost the same from 1991-1997. Assault (which encompasses rape and offences against person) has a mean proportion of 0.13 which seems to be quite high.

Offence	1994	1995	1996	1997
1. Murder	223	238	229	220
Probability	0.09	0.011	0.015	0.019
2. Manslaughter	39	59	26	12
Probability	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.001
3.Rape including attempt	93	81	82	83
Probability	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.007
4. Assault	1583	1371	1382	1393
Probability	0.064	0.062	0.089	0.122
5.Offences against person	44	49	36	26
Probability	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
6. Robberies and allied offences	3796	3594	2966	2448
Probability	0.153	0.161	0.19	0.212
7. Break-ins	4510	4171	3118	2031
Probability	0.181	0.19	0.199	0.176
8. Cattle Theft	43	31	38	47
Probability	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.004

Table 6: Breakdown of Crimes in Nairobi

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9. Theft of other livestock	23	28	16	9
Probability	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
10. General stealing	2987	2754	1823	1207
Probability	0.12	0.125	0.116	0.105
11. Theft of motor vehicle parts	1370	931	519	289
Probability	0.055	0.042	0.033	0.025
12. Theft from vehicles	600	511	345	233
Probability	0.024	0.023	0.022	0.02
13. Theft of bicycles	87	60	36	22
Probability	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.02
14. Theft of produce	496	348	89	23
Probability	0.02	0.016	0.006	0.002
15. Theft by servants	1795	1644	1106	744
Probability	0.072	0.075	0.071	0.064
16. Receiving stolen property	345	282	192	131
Probability	0.014	0.013	0.012	0.011
17. Offences against property	1426	1465	1268	1098
Probability	0.057	0.066	0.081	0.095
18. All other penal offences	2309	2182	751	259
Probability	0.093	0.099	0.048	0.022

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Source: Statistical Abstract 2000, Central Bureau of statistics and author's calculation

Table 7: Consolidated Crimes in Nairobi and their Probabilities

Offence	1994	1995	1996	1997
Theft	16,056	14,357	10,249	7,184
Probability	0.645	0.654	0.654	0.586
Assault	4,626	4,173	3,547	3,860
Probability	0.185	0.19	0.226	0.315
Loss of human life	262	297	255	232
Probability	0.011	0.013	0.016	0.019
Other Penal Code Cases	3,935	3,215	1,622	993
Probability	0.159	0.146	0.104	0.08
Total	24,879	22,042	15,673	12,269

Source: Statistical Abstract 2000, Central Bureau of statistics and author's calculation

In cases of break-ins, robberies and thefts by servants have relatively higher probabilities in Nairobi in comparison to the national average. There is a prevalence of drug and other non-cognizable offences in Nairobi. There are almost no incidents of cattle theft in Nairobi.

The consolidated thefts in Nairobi are almost the same as for Kenya.

The probability of assault is relatively higher in Nairobi as compared to the country average. However, both in Nairobi and Kenya as a whole, there has been a steady increase in the probability of assault from 1991 to 1997. Between 1994 and 1997, the highest rate was theft. Between 1996–1997, assault was the second highest committed crime. Between 1996 and 1997 assault increased by 8.9 percent. Murder had the lowest occurance between 1994 and 1997. Between 1996 and 1997, the offence increased by 0.3 percent. Assault and loss of human life increased between 1996-1997. Since some offences go unreported, there can be an assumption that theft has been on the increase since generally the crime rate is high.

Analyzing the respondents' answers and the prevailing situation as well as the crime logistic, it can be seen that police effectiveness in curbing crime can be enhanced by the following measures:

- Provide a better salary package for the police force to improve their standard of living and boost their morale;
- Equip the police with sophisticated arms, communication system and high speed vehicles;
- Emphasize the importance of honesty and following the laws of the country while conducting their duties;
- Establish a mechanism to eliminate corruption from the police force;
- Create professionalism through intense training in public relations, psychology and Total Quality Management;
- Establish a system so that the police force can share information about crime and the criminals with the public; and
- Educate the public on the importance of cooperating with police to enhance communication.

The measures suggested in alleviating street families, the source of much crime, are:

- Setting up rural development centers to discourage rural-urban migration and toeradicate poverty;
- Opening of vocational centres to provide education and training to street families, so that they can support themselves; and

• Developing a long term policy and plan to rehabilitate street families.

Insecurity is a major concern for businesses and residents in Nairobi. Crime against businesses is substantially greater than crime against individuals and households. Crime has the potential to jeopardize the viability of businesses and may lead to disinvestments. Crime has wider implications of depriving communities of amenities and services, threatening jobs, increasing business costs and jeopardizing local investment. Besides, the business sector appears to be under attack from crime and the probability of re-victimization is high.

Planning business-related crime prevention and evaluating its effectiveness could be made much easier if police record-keeping procedures

were altered. According to the Police Research Group in London, the police did not see crime prevention as a reason for keeping records; rather they were made for operational purposes and to satisfy the requirement of the Home Office.

The coding of crimes against businesses and their further classification according to the different sectors would assist in formulating a crime prevention strategy. The increase in crime at Nairobi has been reflected in the decision of the Crime has the potential to jeopardize the viability of businesses and may lead to disinvestments. Crime has wider implications of depriving communities of amenities and services, threatening jobs, increasing business costs and jeopardizing local investment.

United Nations to change the status of Nairobi from B to C. Some of the multinational companies and other organizations have cited crime as one of the major reason for shifting their regional headquarters to other countries. Some of the indirect costs of crime include the emotional pain suffered by family members and friends, long hours spent during police investigations and court proceedings, higher insurance premiums and extra money spent on security devices and services.

The findings of the study were found to be consistent with the earlier results of the Nairobi Crime Survey Report. In the future a studies model

for expected utility will be constructed by using the probabilities and the corresponding Von-Neumann Morgenstern utility function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The current security situation in Nairobi and Kenya as a whole is bad. The country's economy is dwindling and the global economy also does not seem to have a bright prospect in the immediate future. On the basis of this study the following recommendations are made to alleviate crimes in Nairobi.

- Inject better discipline in the police force; make it more vigilant and adequately equipped. This must be accompanied by an improved remuneration package for police and civil servants so that corruption can be stifled;
- Carry out crime awareness campaigns throughout the country and increase plain clothes' surveillance to investigate as well as expose hideouts and crime operations. More police should be deployed in the urban areas, and street lights and all civil amenities be put in proper order;
- Overhaul the judicial system so it can be made effective with improved efficiency as well as instill the faith of everyone. All the laws and rules of the land should be enforced honestly;
- Enhance civilian involvement in curbing crime with proper training on preventive measures and remedial actions;
- Launch poverty eradication programs by creating employment opportunities, promoting the Jua-Kali sector, rehabilitating the street families/children and providing training to develop skills for self-help projects;
- Increase car-tracking to prevent car-jacking costs;
- Decentralize services and industries to reduce population concentration in Nairobi. This would help to reduce rural-urban migration which is mainly to seek employment;
- Increase sub-police stations in the city and the number of checkpoints along the main highways entering and exiting the city. Security companies should work to increase capacity and coordination with police;

and

• Introduce moral and ethical teachings from childhood through the schools and community centres. Inject cultural and traditional values in youth and make them aware of their importance.

All the recommendations for individual security apply to organizations. The expenditure on maintaining the security for businesses must be considered as a cost for the strategic planning of the organization. Crimes, business performance and economic growth are strongly correlated. Prevention of crime is essential for the sustainable development and therefore adequate measures should be taken to reduce crime in Nairobi, and Kenya as a whole.

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