

Challenges Facing The Directorate Of Criminal Investigation Department On Management Of Criminal Gang Activities In Nairobi County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

This paper uses data collected for an MA Thesis on the challenges facing the Directorate of Criminal Investigation Department on management of criminal gang activities, in Nairobi County, Kenya. This study has been necessitated by continued concern among policymakers, security pundits and citizens about the rising criminal gang activities in the country, more pertinently in Nairobi County. Although there are few studies that tried to scratch this area, there has never been a detailed and systematic inquiry and analysis of this problem. The study was guided by several specific objectives; the first objective examined the tactical challenges that the police face in policing gang related activities in Nairobi County, Kenya; assessed the effect of corruption in undermining the war against gang related activities in Nairobi County, Kenya; and finally explored other technological challenges that the police face in policing gang related activities in Nairobi County, Kenya. The study adopted descriptive research design and purposive sampling technique to collect data. Interview schedules and key informants (K.I) guide were the main tools used to collect data using the interview method of data collection. 60 officers of the Special Crime Prevention Unit were the main respondents. Major challenges faced by the DCI officers when dealing with criminal gang activities especially within Nairobi County include; poor relationship between police and the general public as reported by 89.1% of the respondents, increased involvement of women in gang activities which is exacerbated by low ratio of female-male officers for undercover operations and 90.9%. of respondents indicated due to woman innocence will create a greater challenge. Others include; gang related activities with networks and markets especially for stolen vehicles across the borders as a result of corruption along the borders by both police, custom and military officers. Further, 85.5% indicated that cross border gang activities were worsened by lack of harmonized law for the regulation and

prevention of these activities that led to enhanced proliferation of weapons as well as drugs to and from the neighboring countries. Major recommendations for policy considerations included; increased recruitment and deployment of female officers to beef up their ratio in undercover operations. Harmonized laws for the neighboring East African community countries and increased cooperation between the security organs of these countries in order to have a coordinated approach of tracking and apprehending criminals who escape to neighboring countries. The study also recommends mandatory training for DCI officers in computer/ technological skills to be able to intercept, interpret and or decode gang related communication and cybercrime related activities.

Key words: Gangs, Gang related activities, Management of criminal gang activities,

INTRODUCTION

Hirschfeld (2015) defined a gang as two or more people organized to achieve a common objective and who also share a common identity. According to Grillo (2016), a gang can also mean a group of associates, friends or members of a family with a defined leadership and internal organization that identifies with or claims control over territory in a community. Previous studies (Grillo, 2016; Hirschfeld, 2015) indicate that gangs may be involved in different areas of street-crime activities including drug trafficking, extortion, theft as well as terrorist acts among others (Fraser & Hagedorn, 2018). In most cases, gangs identify themselves with a common name for the purpose of clarifying the common objective they are set to achieve (Grillo, 2016). Additionally, criminal gang activities, include political or non-political acts of violence that are committed by a group of individuals who are fond of regularly engaging themselves into criminal activities or rather actions against innocent persons (Pyrooz, Decker & Moule, 2015). Statistics have it that there are many criminal gang activities happening everyday across the globe with the most common ones being terrorism, theft and extortion among others (Fraser & Hagedorn, 2018). In Kenya, for instance, there are some criminal gang activities that are happening now and then thus compromising the normal functioning of individuals as well as the government (Schuberth, 2018). However, the government of Kenya through the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) department has done a lot through effective investigations to manage criminal gang activities. All the same, there are still indicators that organized criminal gang rates are on the rise (Hope, 2015). The fact that such organized criminal activities are on the rise means that there might be some challenges that continue to be experienced with this particular department hence the need for more future research to improve the same.

Record have it that worldwide urbanization in addition to globalization has created favorable conditions for the growth of gangs, particularly in Latin America, Asia, as well as Africa (Hagedorn, 2005). Davis (2004) argues that unlike the expansion of the state in the earlier industrial era, in the globalization era, states have retreated in the face of instantaneous financial flows and neoliberal monetary policy, while emphasizing punitive policies toward marginalized communities. The implication is that Gangs occupy the vacuum created by the retreat of the social welfare policies of the state. The globalization has connected the whole world economically, but it has come with other negative impact such as creating opportunities for international crime to grow. In other words, globalization has led to the formation of gangs in countries, regions and

cities across the world (Hagedorn, 2005). These gangs commit illegal activities that impinge on the constitutional rights of citizens. In other words, such gang activities are known to have the impact of compromising security of the citizens. Considering that such criminal gang activities compromise the security of citizens, it has been a constitutional mandate of every democratic state to ensure that individual rights and freedoms are guaranteed and protected at all cost (US, 1776; Kenya, 2010).

For the purpose of guaranteeing the protection of individual rights as well as freedom, therefore, human rights policy or rather legislation has been established in most countries including Kenya. In most cases, such acts have prioritized human rights that form an important framework for social, economic and cultural development and include the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. The major organizing principle adopted by many governments in safeguarding human rights, Kenya included, is by effective enforcement of laws through the police institutions (CAP 84 Laws of Kenya). Like in many other countries across the globe, the police service in Kenya has been established as a service to secure a peaceful society. The Kenyan police service does this by enforcing the law and at the same time deterring criminal behavior (CAP 84 Laws of Kenya). All the same, in Kenya, the war against criminal gang activities continues to face some challenges. This study assumes that among the key challenges facing the directorate of criminal investigation department on the management of criminal gang activities in Kenya are different forms of corruption including bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, parochialism and patronage among others (Kenya, 2010). Such forms of corruption may have the impact of influencing peddling, graft, and embezzlement.

Although there are no comprehensive, comparative studies of criminal gangs across the world, scholars estimate that, there are at least tens of millions of gang members in the world today (Hagedorn, Hazlehurst & Hazlehurst, 1998; Klein, Kerner, Maxsen, & Weitekamp, 2001; Kontos, Brotherton, & Barrios, 2003). It is also argued that gangs have now been formed all over the world, especially whenever and wherever industrialization and related processes drive people into cities. For example, in China, Triads began in the 18th century and morphed into gangster activity in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and other large Chinese cities (Booth, 1999). The mafia, originally a rural 19th-century Sicilian rebel force, took root in U.S. cities and transformed local gangs, like Chicago's Taylor Street crew, into powerful illicit organizations (Hobsbawm, 1969; Nelli, 1969). Challenges or rather criminal activities posed by organized criminal gangs include terrorism, maritime piracy, human/arms/drugs trafficking and cyber-crime (Hobsbawm, 1969).

Nonetheless, there are arguments that gang studies in the 1960s argued for or were directed for new social programs that stressed opportunity as part of a societal war on poverty (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960; Yablonsky, 1966). The current gang literature continues to urge for increased state intervention whereas others follow Shaw and McKay (1942) and stress community empowerment in part through leveraging state resources (Bursik & Grasmick, 1993; Sampson & Groves, 1989). US National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC, 2009) portended that some gangs enjoy transnational influence which means that the gangs have direct connections or linkages with other gangs outside their countries. This may not only be a challenge to community wide but also local as well as regional policing efforts (Klein, 1995; Spergel, 1995). The implication here is that this may require a very comprehensive strategy to fight gang crime effectively. Industrializing Third World countries like South Africa had gangs, or skollies, for most of the 20th century (Pinnock, 1984). For

instance, the “Number gangs” have been known in South African prisons for nearly a century (Shurink, 1986). In the wake of post-World War II urbanization, gangs like the Rarry boys in Sierra-Leone (Abdullah, 2002) were formed by the children of urban migrants. In New Zealand, Maori gangs have built national networks in the mid-20th century (Hazelhurst, in press). One other familiar figure is Yasser Arafat; he learned guerrilla tactics as a street gang leader in Cairo in the 1940s (Aburish, 1998).

According to the Kenya National Crime Research Centre (NCRC, 2012) a relatively new and threatening trend in East Africa is the attack by pirates off the coast of Kenya. Young adults, who are generally poor and uneducated, are recruited by crime lords in Somalia and Kenya in an attempt to extort money from commercial and private ships in the Indian Ocean. The immense coastline and porous borders of Kenya make it a prime location for trafficking in humans, weapons, and drugs. It is however not clear whether there are pirates in Kenya or their activities are purely coordinated from Somalia (NCRC, 2012). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2002) portended that crime situation in Kenya is not unique within itself - many of the problems that face Kenya on a criminological and development level are, for the most part, identical to those facing the surrounding countries in East Africa. According to this report, organized criminal gangs in Kenya have been associated with their native communities, thus gaining protection and making them complicated to deal with. In the year 2010 a study commissioned by the Panel of Eminent Persons conducted in Nairobi, Central and Nyanza provinces identified 32 illegal criminal groups, of which 27 were not listed in the 33 banned criminal groups. Further, studies indicated that the illegal groups were taking a low public profile and speculated that the leaders of these groups were seeking to shed their negative image and present themselves as candidates for public office (Pinnock, 1984). These illegal groups were found to be spread throughout the country although more common in urban environments and particularly in Nairobi's large slum areas. The activities of these criminal gangs may be responsible for increase of crime rates in Kenya hence the need to address the matter. According to the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC, 2012) trends in organized crime throughout East Africa, specifically in Kenya, are frequently evolving, giving law enforcement officers' difficult task of policing and causing serious implications for national security.

As one of the organs of the state responsible for the proper administration of justice, law and order, the police force are mandated to provide a safe environment guaranteeing the respect and enjoyment of basic rights by all citizens (Birzer, 1999). Commonwealth Human Right Initiative (CHRI, 2003) argued that police are the most visible manifestation of government authority responsible for public security in any country. While being under enormous pressure by both state and non-state actors to counter the increasing wave of crime and the new threats to national security, including those emanating from terrorism, the police must operate in accordance with law and respect human rights at all times (CHRI, 2003).

With the proliferation of gang violence and crime, increasing numbers of gang members, and the spread of historically localized gangs to other cities and states, the need for gang research has become more compelling. Most studies done so far have focused on specific types of gangs. Again, majority of studies are descriptive in nature, examining the organizational structure and activities of gangs, and the socio-demographic and criminal histories of gang members. Fewer studies have focused on what measures law enforcement agencies and communities undertake to deal with the

gang problem. These include national surveys such as Miller's 1975 investigation of 12 cities known to have youth gang problems, and Needle and Stapleton's 1983 study that examined law enforcement perspectives in agencies in 60 U.S. cities. More recent surveys include the 1992 Law Enforcement Mail Questionnaire Survey conducted by Knox, et al, which obtained estimates of the extent and severity of the gang problem from urban police chiefs and county sheriffs in 787 cities with populations greater than 25,000 and 703 component counties of metropolitan areas. Recent study in Kenya (NCRC, 2012) focused on types of existing criminal gangs and their activities but there is no documented study that focused on challenges faced by law enforcement officers to police gang related activities. This study therefore focuses on challenges faced by the Kenya police service in policing gang related criminal activities with a view of coming up with mitigation strategy to deal with such crimes.

In their survey, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) (2009) also found that gang dynamics are changing and the challenges they pose to police are constantly evolving. Besides, criminal activities associated with those gangs also differ because each criminal gang has unique shifts in their basic motivations, structure and activities. In addition, gang types range from local, regional and transnational levels. As a result, there is no agreed upon strategy that cut across all criminal gang type and contexts. In their study of organized crimes in Kenya, the NCRC (2012) generally focused on the types of organized crimes that are in Kenya and the criminal activities associated with such gangs but did not look at the challenges that the Kenya police face in dealing with such criminal gangs, hence the rationale for this study. It is with this understanding, therefore, that this research seeks to examine challenges facing the Directorate of Criminal Investigation department on the management of criminal gang activities, in Nairobi County, Kenya.

Problem Analysis

There is increasing public perception that gang types, membership and their activities are on the rise in Kenya. This is despite having constitutional mandated institutions like the police and the DCI who are tasked with policing. It has also been argued that, gang dynamics are changing and the challenges they pose to police are constantly evolving. For example, there are speculations that street gang members in Nairobi County, Kenya, have established markets and customers in the neighboring countries. Besides, criminal activities associated with those gangs also differ because each criminal gang has unique shifts in their basic motivations, structure as well as activities. This has led to increase of crime rates in Kenya, especially in Nairobi County. This is likely to compromise the attainment of the country's development blueprint *Vision 2030* in which security is one of the projects anchored on the social pillar. Given that criminal gang activities are on the rise in the Nairobi County, this study assumes that there are likely to be serious underlying challenges undermining the management of criminal gang activities, in Nairobi County, Kenya, hence the rationale for this study.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. According to Kothari (2004) a research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data with the objective of combining relevance of the research purpose and economy in procedure. It is the conceptual

structure within which research is conducted and constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data.

Descriptive survey research is a method of collecting primary data based on communication with a representative sample of individuals (Zikmund, 2007). Further the design through the use of interviews provided respondents with an opportunity to provide information about themselves, their attitudes and beliefs, demographics and other past, present and future behaviors (Cozby, 2003). The design was deemed appropriate since the study sought to explore the challenges facing the DCI officers in policing gang-related activities, in Nairobi County, Kenya.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A total of 57 dully filled and usable questionnaires out of 60 were obtained from respondents for the study. This represented 91.7% response rate and a non-response rate of 8.3%. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), this was sufficient for doing the analysis. Table 1 below shows the response rate. Therefore, all the tables and graphs presented in this chapter have a sample size of 55 unless stated otherwise. In this regard, some tables have a total response of more than 55 and this represents multiple response (where respondents were required to give more than one response).

Table 1: Response Rate

	Frequency	Percentage %
Responded	55	91.7
Did not respond	5	8.3
Total	60	100

Source: Author (2020)

Demographic Information of Respondents

This section presents demographic information of respondents namely: rank of police officers and gender of respondents.

Rank of Police Officers

The ranks of respondents who participated in the study were as shown in Table 4.2 below:

Table 2: Rank Of Respondents

Rank	Frequency	Percent
Constable	21	38.2
Corporal	13	23.6
Sergeant	10	18.2
Inspector	5	9.1
Chief inspector	4	7.3
Superintendent	2	3.6
Total	55	100

Source: Author (2020)

Gender of Respondents

There was a near parity in the gender distribution of respondents who participated in the research is as shown in figure 1 below:

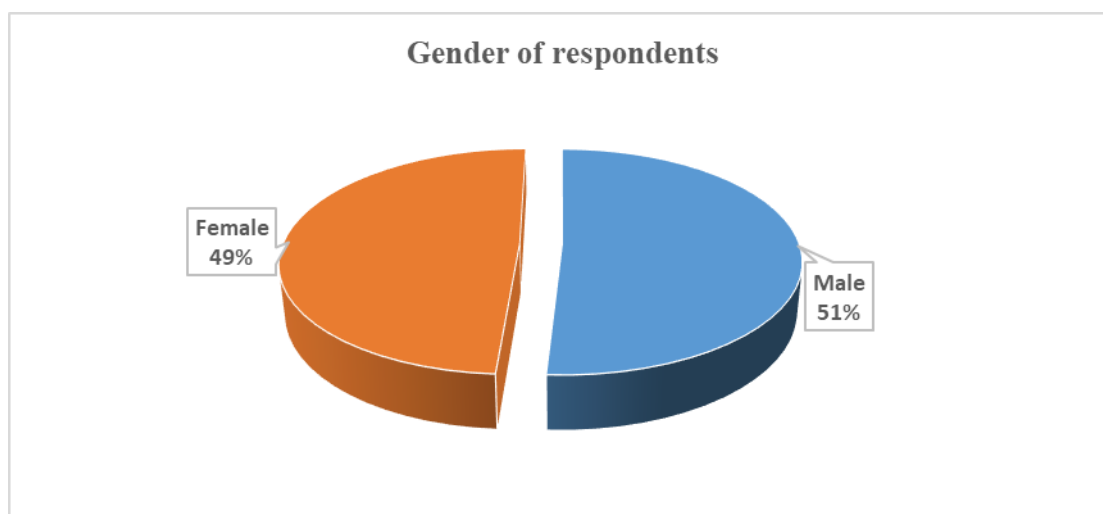


Figure 2: Gender Of Respondents

Respondents' Years of Service

On average, the police officers that participated in this survey were fairly experienced having served in the police service for 11 years. Some of them had served for two years while others had served for three decades as shown in Table 4.3.

Table 3. Respondents' Years Of Service
Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Years of service in Kenya police	55	2	30	11.16	7.591
Valid N (list wise)	55				

Presentation of Results and Findings

The first objective sought to examine the tactical challenges faced by the directorate of criminal investigation (DCI) especially the special crime prevention unit (SCPU) officers in fighting gang related activities in Nairobi County. It focused on three major gang related crimes namely; robberies, drug trafficking and carjacking. From the pilot, it was revealed that the tactical challenges in fighting these activities were different thus the researcher sought to examine these tactical challenges per the gang activity.

General Tactical Challenges

These were divided into the tactical challenges in managing robberies, drug trafficking and carjacking. To begin with, the study examined the tactical challenges affecting the DCI in managing robberies in Nairobi County.

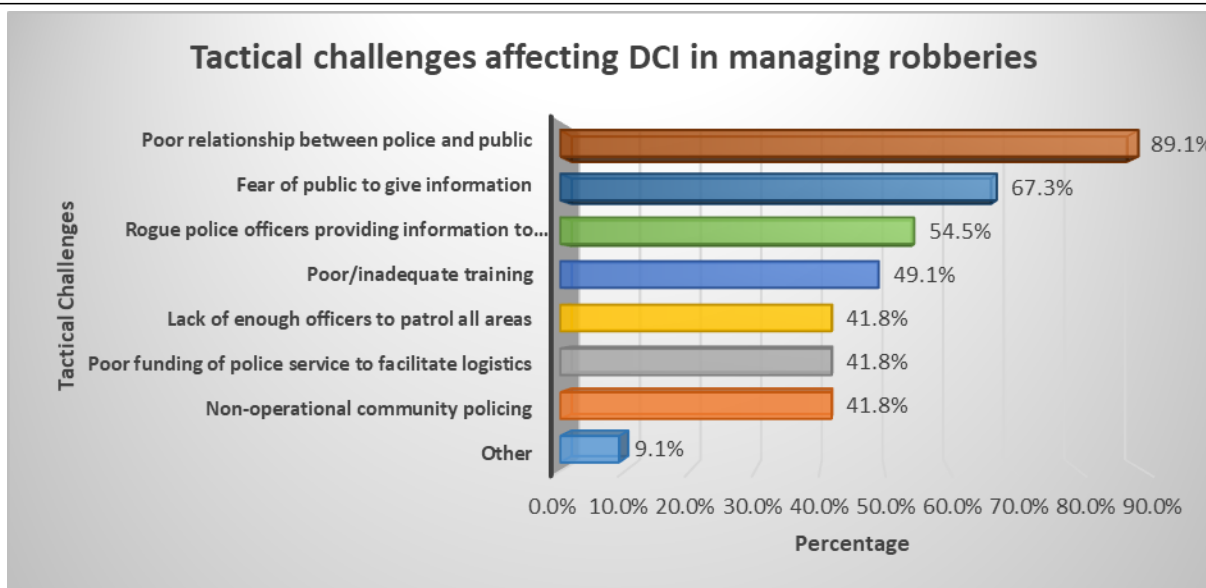


Figure 4.3: Tactical Challenges Affecting DCI In Managing Robberies

As evidenced in Figure 2, the major challenge faced while fighting robberies was poor relationship between police and the general public as reported by 89.1% of the respondents. This is because over a long time there has been animosity between the police and the civilians especially due to victimization. This constrained relationship has led to another major challenge where the public fear to disclose information to the police (67.3%). Failure to avail information to the police has made tracing of criminals difficult. This fear is also brought about by fear of revenge from the criminals. Another major challenge facing the police in fighting robberies is the notion that there are some rogue police officers who collude with criminals and provide information to these criminals about the whereabouts of police so they can evade them as reported by 54.5% of the respondents. Besides providing information, it was further noted during key informant interviews that some of these rogue officers give these criminals weapons to execute the crimes.

Moreover, it was indicated by 49.1% of the respondents that the training that the police officers receive is not sufficient to fight gang related activities like robberies. Lack of enough police officers to go for patrols was another challenge faced in fighting these crimes. Despite the recent recruitment of police officers, there is still shortage of police officer compared to the population. Some activities such as robberies are executed by a group of criminals and the few police officers on patrol may not be able to confront them. In addition, it was reported that police face challenges of underfunding and this makes them not able to adequately plan for their logistics as well as acquire sophisticated weapons to fight criminals. Further, despite the government commissioning the community policing and Nyumba Kumi initiative, they have not served the purpose with which they were formed (41.8%). Had these initiatives been working, there would be synergies between the police and local policing units which would enhance information flow and make the work of police easier.

Table 4: Tactical Challenges Affecting DCI In Managing Drug Trafficking

	Frequency	Percent
Frustrations by senior officers	40	72.7%
Lack of proper training to handle drug traffickers	39	70.9%
Lack of drug detectors	34	61.8%
Interference by political class	33	60.0%
Poor justice system	30	54.5%
Non-disclosure of offenders due to close ties/family	23	41.8%
Other	5	9.1%

As shown in Table 4 above frustrations by senior officers (72.7%), lack of proper training to handle drug traffickers (70.9%), lack of drug detectors (61.8%) and interference by political class (60.0%) were the major challenges the police face in managing drug trafficking in Nairobi County. For instance, it was reported that some of the big drug dealers collude with senior police officers to secure a smooth pathway for operating their businesses. When a dealer is arrested, the senior police officer frustrates the junior to an extent of even threatening them with either transfer or other punishment. Moreover, some of these drug dealers are said to have protection from the political class. Once they are arrested they have support from the politicians who tend to interfere with operations of the police.

As was reported by 61.8% of the respondents, there is lack of drug detectors to enhance police officers nab the dealers. Currently, police rely on sniffer dogs and it is not possible to always patrol with the dogs. Again, not all the police officers have been trained to use the help of sniffer dogs. This makes it difficult for the police officers to deal with the problem of drug trafficking. Besides, 54.5% of the respondents indicated that poor justice system has been a hindrance in managing the activities of drug trafficking. The respondents claimed that more often the suspects buy their way out and in turn continue with the activities.

Table 2: Tactical Challenges Affecting DCI In Managing Carjacking

	Frequency	Percent
Efficiency of garages where stolen vehicles are taken	44	80.0%
Well organized and facilitated criminal networks	41	74.5%
Vandalism of NPR cameras to facilitate activities	34	61.8%
Collaboration with rogue officers who provide information	32	58.2%
Other	16	29.1%

With regard to carjacking, based on results in Table 5, the most serious challenges reported was the existence of and efficiency of garages where stolen vehicles are taken and dismantled as

reported by 80% of the respondents. This makes it hard for the police to follow, track and recover the stolen vehicles. The garages were said to be very efficient such that within five minutes the car has been completely dismantled with only the skeleton left which is difficult to identify the vehicle. Further, the gangs involved in carjacking were said to be well organized and facilitated (74.5%). At times, if the target is on a certain location, the gangs vandalize the number plate recognition (NPR) cameras in order to facilitate their activities (61.8%). Similarly, as reported in the case of robberies, there are some rogue police officers who aid the activities of the gangs by providing them with whereabouts of police officers manning the roads so that they can escape using different routes.

Increase in Women Gang Members

All the respondents indicated that indeed the increase of women gang members pose challenges to SCPU officers in managing gang related activities in Nairobi county. This increase has had various negative effects in crime management as shown in Table 6.

Table 3: Effects Of Raise In Women Gang Members In Managing Gang Activities

	Frequency	Percent
Women look/act innocent hence difficult to suspect	50	90.9%
Shortfalls in law where only female are required to frisk females	39	70.9%
Laxity of security officers to check the females	37	67.3%
Low ratio of female-male officers for patrols	32	58.2%
Women attract attention to male officers thus act as distraction	31	56.4%
Women act vulnerable to victims and lead them to criminals	25	45.5%

From Table 4.6, it was revealed that the increase of women gang members has posed serious challenges in managing gang activities in Nairobi. In this case, 90.9% of the respondents indicated that women look/act innocent hence difficult to suspect. Due to this, they are the most used people to carry weapons, transport drugs as well as confuse the police officers as their male colleagues execute their activities. It was also reported that police officers have a challenge with the shortfalls in law where only female are required to frisk females (70.9%). This is also hampered by the low ratio of female-male officers for patrols (58.2%). The number of female police officers is quite low compared to that of their male counterparts. This makes it hard to have enough female officers for patrols. In the event the police arrest female suspects, the law required that the suspect be searched/ frisked by a female officer. In the absence of a female officer within the patrol team, they are not able to frisk the suspect(s) and this is a challenge.

On the other hand, there was reported to be laxity of security officers in checking the females especially when going into malls as well as when boarding public service vehicles. This makes the females easily carry drugs and weapons on behalf of their male criminals without the police noticing them. It was also indicated that women act vulnerable to crimes, act as victims and end up exposing the police to criminals. Due to acting in good faith to help the women, the police are caught up unaware and fall victims to the gangs.

Cross Border Gang Activities

The study also sought to examine the effects of cross border gang activities in the management of gang related activities in Nairobi. The focus was mainly on the activities in the neighboring countries such as Uganda and Tanzania. The findings were as presented in Table 7.

Table 4: Effects Of Cross Border Gang Activities In Managing Gang Activities

	Frequency	Percent
Lack of strict rules that guide entrance of goods	47	85.5%
Lack of harmony in law (some illegal goods are legal in other countries e.g. Bhang)	38	69.1%
Availability of cheap goods (e.g. firearms) in neighboring countries	37	67.3%
Ready market of goods in other countries	36	65.5%
Lack of proper monitoring of the borders	34	61.8%
Bureaucracies in following crime suspects in other countries	32	58.2%

As evidenced in Table 7, there have been various implications of gang related activities in the neighboring country that have affected the management of these activities in Nairobi. For instance, 85.5% of the respondents reported that lack of strict rules that guide entrance of goods has enhanced proliferation of weapons as well as drugs to and from the neighboring countries thus raising crime rates. In addition, lack of harmony in law for the regulation and prevention of these activities has hampered the fight against gangs. For example, some goods that are illegal here in Kenya e.g. Bhang are legal in other countries. This makes ready market for drugs in other countries and encourages gangs to engage in this business. Further, availability of cheap goods (e.g. firearms) in neighboring countries such as Somalia has made the fight against gang activities in Nairobi harder. The lack of proper monitoring of the borders has made the borders porous and easy to sneak in the weapons and drugs. It has also created a way for the criminals to escape and hide in the neighboring countries. In this case, bureaucracies in following crime suspects in other countries lead the police into abandoning the case unless with the cooperation of the security forces in other countries.

Use of Internet Based Methods in Gang Communication

Besides, the study sought to examine the challenge posed by use of internet based methods such as YouTube, Face book, encrypted e-mail, Skype, MySpace in gang communication on the operations of the police in preventing gang related activities. All the respondents indeed ascertained that these forms of communication had challenged the operations of police in fighting gang related activities. The effects of these communication methods were as illustrated in Figure 3.

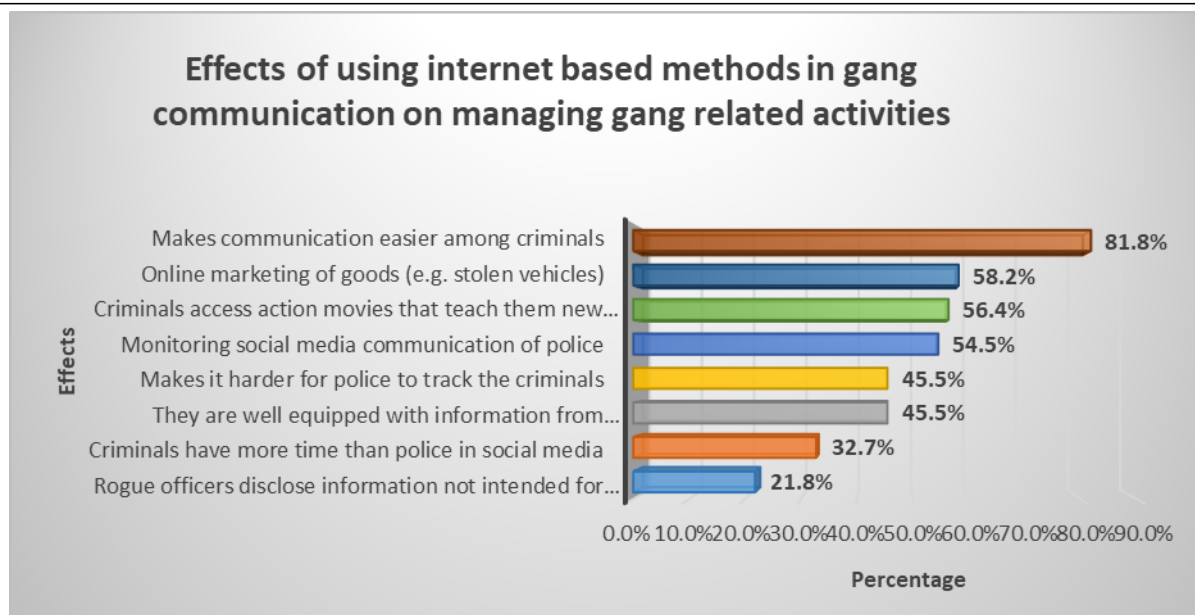


Figure 4: Effects Of Using Internet Based Methods In Gang Communication On Managing Gang Related Activities

Based on results in Figure 3, the use of these communication methods by criminal gangs makes communication easier amongst themselves as reported by 81.8% of the respondents. Also, through these channels, the criminals access online markets of goods where they are able to sell stolen goods and vehicles (58.2%) without the knowledge of the police as well as buy goods including weapons and drugs at cheaper prices. Most of them use coded language so that they cannot be detected by the authorities. Further, from these channels, criminals access action movies that teach them new skills and tactics of evading the police or even confronting them during their activities.

The criminals are also able to monitor the social media communication of police and obtain crucial information especially on their check points. This makes it harder for the police to track the criminals. Following communications in these channels is hard since the police lack the mechanisms to access the conversations. Through these methods, some rogue police officers also provide information to the criminals because they know through the channels they will not be caught.

Generally, these tactical lapses within the police service have hampered the management of gang activities especially in Nairobi. The major effects of these challenges were said to be the notion that nothing will be done to get justice even if the police arrest the criminals (61.8%). Moreover, using sophisticated communication methods and with aid from the rogue officers who provide information as well as weapons to the criminals, the police are not able to track and apprehend the criminals (60.0%). It was also reported that the junior police officers fear crossing paths with their superiors especially if the relatives and/or friends of their superiors are involved in these crimes

This notion has led to laxity within the police (56.4%). Due to these challenges, the police also fear that they might be sold out to the criminals by their sympathizers hence putting their lives in danger. Lack of modern weapons by the police and superior weapons by the gangs makes the police reluctant to confront and fight the gangs as shown in Figure 4.

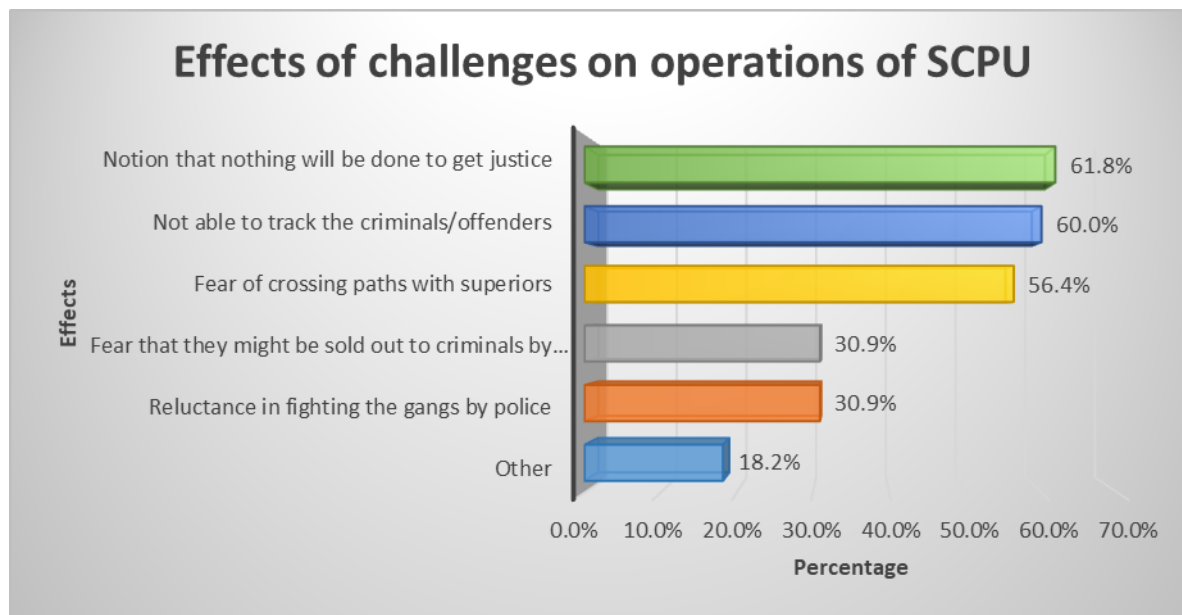


Figure 5: Effects Of Challenges On Operations Of Scpu

Effect of Corruption in Undermining the War against Gang Related Activities

In the second objective, the study sought to examine the effect of corruption in undermining the war against gang related activities in Nairobi County. Corruption was examined in three aspects namely; police corruption, customs corruption and military corruption.

Effect of Police Corruption

Police corruption involves the acts of corruption with the police service. Police corruption manifested in various forms as enumerated in Table 8.

Table 5: Effect Of Police Corruption In Policing Gang Related Activities

	Frequency	Percent
Favoritism for relatives/friends	45	81.8%
Command issues (seniors will not send officers to areas where they have interests in)	45	81.8%
Selective deployment	40	72.7%
Poor policy implementation by seniors	36	65.5%

Based on the results in Table 8, corruption within the police services has led to favoritism of relatives and friends thus blocking their apprehension as reported by 81.8% of the respondents. The criminals are left to continue with their activities because they have protection from the police (especially the senior officers). Moreover, this form of corruption has led to command issues where seniors will not send officers to areas where they have interests in. Instead, they will send officers to patrol other areas leaving their interests to be executed freely. This also leads to selective deployment where the senior officers deploy their friends and/or collaborators to specific areas where they want their interests to be protected. Another effect of corruption within the police service was reported to be poor policy implementation by the senior officers this rendering efforts to curb crime as well as fight against gangs ineffective.

Effects of Custom Officers' Corruption on Police Operations

The second aspect of corruption studied was the effect of custom officers' corruption and involvement in gang activities on the operations of police in policing gang activities in Nairobi County. The findings were as presented in Table 9.

Table 6: Effects Of Custom Officers' Corruption On Police Operations

	Frequency	Percent
Conceal identity of goods at the border	50	90.9%
Allow clearance/entry/exit of illegal goods	41	74.5%
Allow clearance/entry/exit of criminals	26	47.3%

The study results revealed that corruption in the customs department has brought about illegal entry of people and goods across from other countries. When customs officers are involved in corruption and gang activities, they conceal identity of goods at the border (90.9%) such that they very well know what goods are being crossed over but hide their identity or even give them a different name especially a legal item in order for them to be allowed entry. It was also reported that involvement in corruption enables the officers to allow clearance, entry and exit of illegal goods (74.5%) as well as criminals (47.3%). Therefore, it is evident that corruption within the customs office/department has really affected the operations of police in fighting gang activities.

Effects of Military Corruption on Police Operations

Thirdly, the study examined how military corruption and involvement in gang activities affect police operations in policing gang related activities. These effects are as presented in Table 10.

Table 7: Effects Of Military Corruption On Police Operations

	Frequency	Percent
Interdicted officers join criminal groups	51	92.7%
Allow entry and/or exit of criminals across borders	48	87.3%
Seniors protecting their 'interests'	45	81.8%

Based on the results in Table 10, punishment and interdiction of military officers has led to their involvement in corruption and gang activities. This has brought about difficulties in fighting these gangs because they know pretty most of the skills, tactics and information about the operations of the security services including the police.

A police officer stated;

“Most interdicted officers of the military engage in criminal activities, keeping in mind their knowledge in firearms, they pose a threat to the security and operations of police in dealing with gang activities”.

Besides, since it is the military that is mandated to guard the borders of Kenya with other countries, once the military officers are engaged in corrupt deals, they allow entry and/or exit of criminals across borders who then cause havoc in many parts of the country including Nairobi. In instances where senior military officers are involved, they tend to protect their ‘interests’ and allow for crossing of criminals and illegal items. They just order their juniors to allow the entry with no one questioning.

Effect of Corruption in Undermining War against Gang Related Activities

Generally, corruption has had adverse effects in the management of gang activities especially in Nairobi. In this regard, the presence of corruption in every institution reveals a failure in governance. This poor governance leads to making of bad decisions as well as embezzlement of funds meant to purchase of police gear and machinery.

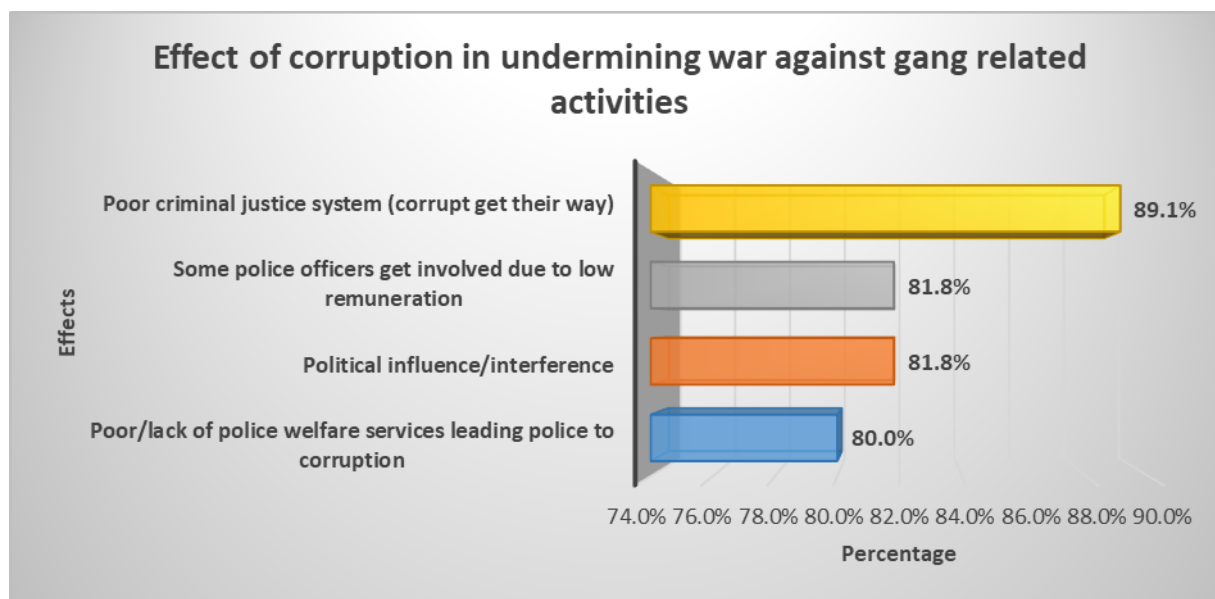


Figure 6: Effect Of Corruption In Undermining War Against Gang Related Activities

As evidenced in Figure 5, corruption has led to poor justice system where the corrupt buy their way out. In some instances, police were said to complement their low pay as well as lack of welfare services with corrupt dealings. In most cases, police are said to be among the least paid civil servants while their duties are among the hardest. There is also said to be poor welfare

service within the police service. For example, police are made to share houses leaving them with no privacy with their families. All these leave police with very low development capabilities and many end up frustrated. Therefore, any opportunity they get to make an extra coin is taken up without hesitation. Since they are not certain there will be justice, some take advantage and solicit for money from the criminals and they set them free. This has become a cash cow for the police as also evidenced by the numerous national reports showing that the police rank highly in matters corruption.

In addition, corruption leads to interference from the political class as reported by 81.8% of the respondents. Sometimes politicians and other senior government officials may approach senior police officers and strike corrupt deals about certain activities. This leads to interference with the investigations and also intimidation of the junior officers. In this regard, the police are not able to properly execute their duties well thus allowing gang activities to thrive. Another police officer stated;

“Criminals are supported by senior people in governments thus they are able to do whatever they do since no action can be taken. If they are arrested they end up being released. There is also elimination of officers who investigate such cases”.

Measures to Tame Effects of Corruption

In order to improve the management of gang activities, it is important that corruption within the police service itself, the customs and within the military be controlled. The respondents were asked what they thought would be done to tame the effect of corruption in undermining the war against gang related activities. The findings were as illustrated in Table 11.

Table 8: Measures To Tame Effects Of Corruption

	Frequency	Percent
Better pay for security officers	44	81.5%
Improved welfare of police officers	39	72.2%
Proper training on integrity	30	55.6%

Based on the results in Table 11, the government need to pay the security officers well (81.5%) as well as improve the welfare of police officers (72.2%) in order to reduce the effect of corruption within the service. Had the police been paid well and catered for properly in terms of welfare services, it is highly likely that appetite for money from corrupt deals would reduce thereby restoring the integrity of police and enhancing security. In addition, it was reported that police officers require adequate and proper training on integrity and morals so that they can be able to resist the temptation of corruption. Generally, the perception that police are corrupt is an obstacle to the fight against criminality. Therefore, awareness should be created to make members of the public trust the police with information with the hope that such information will be acted upon and confidentiality be maintained.

Another police officer stated;

“Apart from better pay, officers need to have better housing so that they are able to perform. Lack of better housing affects most of the officers who end up living in slums with the criminals thus engaging in their criminal activities in order to sustain themselves”.

Technological Challenges that the Police Face in Policing Gang Related Activities

In the third objective, the study sought to explore the technological challenges that affect the Kenya police service in policing gang related activities.

Table 9: Technological Challenges Faced In Managing Gang Related Activities

	Frequency	Percent
Inability to track communication by criminals	48	87.3%
Lack of modern equipment e.g. gun and drug detectors	45	81.8%
Criminals use more sophisticated weapons	29	52.7%
Poor cyber technology skills	7	12.7%

Based on results in Table 12, majority of the respondents (87.3%) reported that police are not able to track communication by criminals and this hinders the operations of police. Besides there being lack of modern technology at the disposal of police, there are numerous legal requirement for them to obtain the permission to do the tracking. For instance, a police officer is required to get authorization for them to request tracking from communication service providers such as Safaricom and Airtel. One of the police officers noted;

“The inability to track communication by criminals affords them much needed space to plan their operations and execute them. If the gap can be bridged, gangs’ plans can be thwarted at early stages. These inadequacies in technology hinder police from executing their objective of prevention of crime and are instead left fighting after gangs have caused havoc”.

Another technological challenge identified was the lack of modern equipment e.g. gun and drug detectors required to nab the perpetrators (81.8%). Previously, police have been using sniffer dogs to detect drugs but it is not efficient to walk around with dogs all the time during patrols. It was also indicated that sophisticated weapons, drugs as well as guns can easily pass and the police do not notice because they don’t have tracking devices. In this regard, a police officer stated;

“Lack of equipment such as forensic laboratories which help to know the drug substance is a challenge especially in the fight against drug trafficking. This is a challenge because the officers are not able to prove whether what they have arrested or discovered is actually drug or not”.

This would enable the police to track suspects as well as analyze some of the exhibits left behind at scenes of crime trying to get the evidence of the accused person(s). Moreover, 52.7% of the

respondents reported that criminals use more sophisticated weapons which are superior to weapons used by the police. This makes the police overpowered by the criminals and in many instances the criminals escape. In addition, it was reported that police exhibit poor cyber technology skills. Most of them are not well trained on the use of modern technology such as computer and detectors. Another officer pointed out that;

“Most police officers are not computer literate hence efforts in fighting cybercrime are centralized to a few who have experience and are experts in cyber related crimes”

In conclusion, the respondents were asked to propose the types of modern equipment required to fight against gang related activities in Nairobi. The results were as presented in Figure 6.

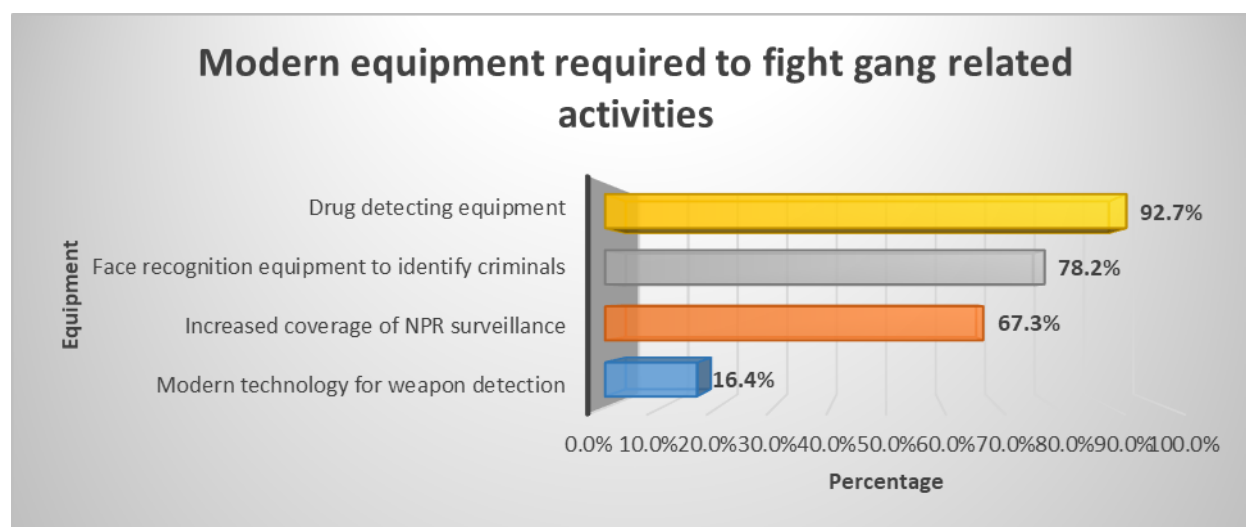


Figure 7: Modern Equipment Required To Fight Gang Related Activities

As evidenced in figure 4.6, majority of the respondents (92.7%) reported that drug detecting equipment are required to fight drug trafficking. Further, 78.2% indicated the need for face recognition equipment to identify criminals. Most of these equipment(s) are placed on the streets of Nairobi but there is need to have them also in other estates since much of these activities are carried out in the estates. The respondents also recommended the expansion in coverage of number plate recognition surveillance (67.3%) as this would ensure that most of the routes are covered. Doing so would reduce the cases of carjacking in Nairobi. Additionally, the police expressed the need to have modern technology for weapon detection (16.4%). A police officer further stated;

“To counter the technology related crimes, there is need to have police officers who are trained in cybercrime, computer science and information technology rather than depending on form four leavers”.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Targeted enforcement, prevention and intervention remains an essential part of any comprehensive strategy that can be made more effective by working hand-in-hand with other agencies at the state, regional, and local levels. In Kenya, this is done through community policing and the Nyumba Kumi initiative. This study revealed that the major challenge faced while fighting gang related activities such as robberies, carjacking and drug trafficking was poor relationship between police and the general public (89.1%). The public fear to disclose information on criminal activities to the police consequently making tracing of criminals difficult. Other tactical challenges included leakage of officer's operation strategies and communications to gang members through rogue officers. This further target hardened criminal gang activities.

The increase of women gang members has also posed serious challenges in managing gang activities in Nairobi because women look/act innocent hence difficult to suspect and that police officers have a challenge with shortfalls in law where only females are required to frisk females. This is hampered by the low ratio of female-male officers for patrols as the law required that the suspect be searched/ frisked by a female officer. In the absence of a female officer within the patrol team, they are not able to frisk the suspect(s) and this is a challenge. There was reported laxity from security officers in checking the females especially when going into malls as well as when boarding public service vehicles. Due to this, they are the most used people to carry weapons, transport drugs as well as confuse the police officers as their male colleagues execute their activities. This supports the finding of PERF (2009) who cited that female involvement in gangs continues to increase and evolve as females assume greater responsibility in gang activities and grow more independent from their male counterparts.

Cross border gang activities had affected the management of criminal gang activities. Lack of strict rules that guide entrance of goods has enhanced proliferation of weapons as well as drugs to and from the neighboring countries (85.5%) as well as lack of harmony in law for the regulation and prevention of these activities have led to increase in crime rates thus hampering the fight against gangs. When some of the drugs are legal in neighboring countries, there is good market and this encourages proliferation of these commodities. As Hauck and Peterke (2010) observed, gangs are increasingly smuggling weapons from the United States into Mexico as payment for drugs or to sell for a significant profit.

Police corruption involves the acts of corruption within the police service. As noted by Throup, (2017), corrupt officers become directly engaged in criminal activities, running drug distribution rings or prostitution rings. This corruption is caused by the low prestige level of police which leads to organized crime's recruitment of officers with low education and problematic behavior (Davis, Hirst, & Mariani, 2001). Moreover, some criminals also collude with police officers to modify the charges enabling them to be released for pettiness of crime. This also occurs with the prosecutors some of whom are police officers as well as magistrates to secure release of the criminals. This finding lends support to that of Van de Bunt, (2004) who stated that such pressure from prosecutors and magistrates can obstruct police investigations of influential businessmen who are part of criminal networks. This also happens with intermediaries, such as former police officers or special service agents, lawyers and informants who can facilitate corrupt exchanges with criminal groups.

With regard to custom officers, corruption happens in the form of concealing the identity of goods at the border such that they very well know what goods are being crossed over but hide their identity or even give them a different name, especially a legal item, in order for them to be allowed entry. It also occurs when the officers allow clearance, entry and exit of illegal goods (without concealing them) and criminals. This finding concurs with Eurobarometer, (2007) where it was noted that corruption of customs officers mainly helps organized crime avoid detection of smuggled goods, avoid investigations (where customs possess investigatory powers) or facilitate the commitment of customs fraud (reduce import duties). The mechanisms used range from paying frontline officers to bribing shift managers who ensure the complicity of officers on duty, or allow cargo to pass while shifts change.

On the other hand, once the military officers are engaged in corrupt deals, they allow entry and/or exit of criminals across borders who then cause havoc in many parts of the country. In the event that senior military officers are involved, they tend to protect their 'interests' and allow for crossing of criminals and illegal items. Military corruption also takes the form of theft of military weapons and equipment that aid the activities of the criminal gangs. This is facilitated by rogue officers and also if the welfare of the officers is not considered. Some of them steal the weapons and lend to the criminals for a 'cut' from their dealings. This assertion corroborates that of Davis et al. 2001 who observed that arms smuggling and military equipment theft took place with the support of corrupt military personnel.

Police service face numerous challenges in their quest to fight criminal gangs especially in Nairobi. Some of the technological challenges faced by the police include inability to track communication by criminals and this hinders the operations of police. More often, they are required to rely on other service providers in order to track communications by the gangs. This process sometimes takes long time to get approvals and this gives the criminals time to escape and hide themselves. This finding concurs with that of Kumbuti (2013) who portended that Kenya has not yet wholly adopted the use of modern technology such as the biometrics in crime prevention thus hampering the operations of Kenya police service.

Besides, police face the challenge of lack of modern equipment e.g. gun and drug detectors required to nab the perpetrators. In Kenya, police have been using sniffer dogs to detect drugs but it is not efficient to walk around with dogs all the time during patrols. Lack of equipment such as forensic laboratories which help to know the drug substance is a challenge especially in the fight against drug trafficking. Basically, policing gang related activities requires huge resources to meet the demands for provision of modern equipment and use of advanced technology, which resource constrained countries including Kenya are unable to meet (Frühling, 2007; The National Taskforce on Police Reforms, 2009).

Major recommendations for policy considerations included; increased recruitment and deployment of female officers to beef up their ratio in undercover operations. Harmonized laws for the neighboring East African community countries and increased cooperation between the security organs of these countries in order to have a coordinated approach of tracking and apprehending criminals who escape to neighboring countries. The study recommends mandatory training for DCI officers in computer/ technological skills to be able to intercept, interpret and or decode gang related communication and cybercrime related activities.

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