NATIONAL STRATEGY ON URBAN CRIME PREVENTION IN TANZANIA



PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Message from the Executive Director



In the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000, governments committed themselves to improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Since that historical declaration, UN-HABITAT has supported developing countries in their efforts to reduce urban poverty and to upgrade informal settlements, through policy advice, advocacy, capacity development, and exchange of experiences. This has been done in collaboration with many local, national and international partners.

The Safer Cities Programme was launched in 1996 at the request of African Mayors who were grappling with issues of increasing crime and violence in their cities. Since 1998, UN-HABITAT has been

supporting Dar es Salaam in the implementation of its urban crime prevention strategy. The project has received international recognition, including Dubai Best Practice in 2004 and the Africities Award in 2000 and 2003. Meanwhile, urban safety has been integrated into a Cities Alliance slum upgrading project in Dar es Salaam and is one of the key components of the UN-HABITAT statement on urbanization recently delivered to His Excellebcy the President.

The Safer Cities Dar es Salaam project has mobilized communities in implementing local crime prevention initiatives, including the development of the sungusungu (citizen crime prevention patrols), the re-vitalisation of the ward tribunal system, and the establishment of the Auxiliary Police. It has also implemented safety audit tools and supported income generating projects for groups at risk. Having contributed toward a decrease in victimisation rates in Dar es Salaam between 2000 to 2003 the programme was rolled out onto other cities and towns in Tanzania with the invaluable support of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). In this phase of national instutionalisation and replication, nine other towns (Arusha, Bagamoyo, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mwanza, Moshi, Tanga, Morogoro and Iringa) have adopted the safer cities approach and developed their own local crime and violence prevention strategies.

This publication of the national strategy is a important milestone in the development of national capacity to support local crime prevention initiatives in the country. The Safer Cities Tanzania Programme is now institutionalised within Prime Minister's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), which is determined to provide continuous support and guidance in order to make Tanzania an example worth emulating by other countries with regards to promoting urban safety.

And Kynto Timynko

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Foreword



The Government of Tanzania is committed to improve quality of life and social well-being of the people through good governance focusing on economic structures and processes such as use of public resources, management systems, personal security, and participation in decision making in line with the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty - MKUKUTA.

The government therefore supports the implementation of Safer Cities initiative under PMO-RALG in collaboration with development partners particularly, the Government of Sweden (Sida) and UN-Habitat for supporting the implementation of Safer Cities

in Dar es Salaam and other seven local government authorities namely Mwanza, Mbeya, Tanga, Arusha, Moshi, Dodoma and Bagamoyo. The Government commends also effort of other local government authorities which are implementing the Safer Cities initiatives through their own sources such as Morogoro and Iringa municipalities.

The main objective of the Safer Cities initiative is to strengthen the capacities of local government authorities to address issues of safety and security in their areas of jurisdictions thus enabling them to deliver one of the basic functions of the local government authorities as required by the Local Government laws that of maintenance of peace, order and tranquility in their respective areas.

The National Strategy for Urban Crime Prevention is an important working tool whose primary objective is to build safe local environments where citizens are assured of living in peace and harmony, without fear of crime or domestic violence and where there will be security for their property in order to achieve sustainable development.

The strategy must therefore be implemented diligently by involving all key actors and stakeholders in order to establish linkages with other ongoing processes and Programmes such as the Local Government Reform Programme, the Urban Development and Environment Management and Community Policing.

The strategy has to outline the main output, resources and actors to ensure achievement while it recognize that safety and security touch upon all aspects of human lives. Therefore, the participation of all actors in the development of this strategy is highly commendable. The strategy will become an important reference document to all actors including the communities while Local Government Authorities in Dar es Salaam remain an important resource center for all local government authorities in Tanzania to learn from their rich lessons and experiences.

The Government therefore, commits itself to create an enabling environment to enable all actors to invest and contribute to matters of safety and security of our cities and communities.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that security of the people and their property is increasingly becoming an important agenda in development. I therefore call upon every individual to take part in ensuring there is peace, order and tranquility upon which our nation of the present and future generations will prosper.

an Anna C

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National Strategy on Urban Crime Prevention in Tanzania:

1.0 Introduction and Definition of Key Concepts:

Background

In 2007 Tanzania committed to the development of a national strategy on urban crime prevention. The National Strategy on Urban Crime Prevention in Tanzania is the culmination of 10 years of work on safety in Tanzania. Through this strategy the Government of Tanzania is concretely responding to the concerns expressed by its people, especially in urban areas, to the negative effects of crime and violence. People living in urban areas in Tanzania are more concerned with the issue of crime and violence than those living in rural areas.

Half the population living in urban centres in Tanzania feel that crime and violence has increased over the past three years, compared to only 28% in rural areas. There is an increasing proliferation of drugs, alcohol and small arms in urban centres. Persistent unemployment, ethnic, racial and religious conflicts, domestic violence, violence against women and abuse and neglect of children continue to threaten certain communities and maintain a culture of violence. Theft of personal property and home burglaries are the most common crimes overall. Less than half the crimes that were surveyed were reported to the police.

One of the most common reasons for not reporting to the police was that they were unavailable or inaccessible. Many victims also stated that the crime was not important enough to warrant reporting to the authorities. Nearly two-thirds of the victims reported the crime to a structure other than the police: mostly traditional authorities, local ward councilors and the (sungusungu). These phenomenons have led over 70% of the population to change their behaviour due to feelings of insecurity.¹

The ultimate goal must be "Cities where human beings lead fulfilling lives in dignity, safety, happiness and hope."²

Safety and security touch upon all aspects of human life, be it at home, at work, or in communities. If no corrective measures are taken, cities and towns will suffer from increasing social and economic divisions and inequalities, as well as a paralysis caused by fear and mismanagement. In the face of increasing urbanisation and globalisation, failures on the part of government, police and justice to effectively address insecurity generate a downward spiral that is threatening people's lives.

Insecurity cannot be reduced simply to issues of crime and violence. Crime and people's anxieties about crime and violence are catalysts for a more widespread and generalised feeling of insecurity with regard to quality of life. Fear of violence has come to symbolise all other fears: economic and social impoverishments, ethnic and cultural conflicts, domestic violence, etc. Crime and violence are significant economic, social welfare, health and governance issues.³

Community safety, on the other hand, is a basic human right. It is a public good that determines quality of life. Many factors negatively influence people's sense of community safety. Everyone has a responsibility to make communities safer. No

¹ A. Stavrou and J. O'Riordan, Victimisation in Tanzania – Surveys of crime in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mtwara, 2003

² Habitat II Declaration, Istanbul, 1996, ECOSOC Resolution, Habitat Agenda par. 123

³ Vanderschueren, Background Paper, Durban, 2003

single agency can address crime and safety problems on its own. Crime prevention and community safety strategies need to be adapted to local needs on the basis of good analysis and targeted plans. Adequate capacities need to be built at the local level, including those for the measurement of progress and performance.

Security challenges are becoming more complex and a plethora of various actors are attempting to play a role in addressing such insecurities. There is an attempt to broaden the focus to include the security of people; so called "human security" which means protecting vital freedoms. Protecting people from critical and threatening situations, building on their strengths, demands an integrated approach. Human security connects different types of freedoms - freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to take action. To achieve these freedoms there are two general strategies: protection and empowerment. Protection requires effort to develop norms, processes and institutions that systematically address insecurities. Empowerment enables people to become full participants in decision-making. Protection and empowerment are mutually reinforcing, giving people the building blocks of survival, dignity and livelihood and enabling people to participate in governance and make their voices heard. From an urban development perspective this requires building strong institutions, establishing the rule of law and empowering people.⁴

fear, hinders mobility and may be a major stumbling block for participation, social cohesion, and full citizenship. Furthermore, insecurity erodes the social capital of the poor and the social fragmentation results in a decline in social cohesion and an increase in social exclusion. Social exclusion prevents certain groups from equal and effective participation in the social, economic, cultural, and political life. There is a close connection between social exclusion and poverty. Most of the excluded groups – e.g. women, children and youth, the elderly, widows, and AIDS sufferers - are cut off from networks that provide access to power and resources, making them vulnerable and increasing their risk of being poor. The vicious cycle of poverty leads to social stigmatization and marginalization from institutions, leading to greater poverty, having a profound negative impact on quality of life.^a

At the community level, social cohesion is an asset that provides security, regulates behaviour, and improves the standard of living of the community as a whole. Social cohesion and civic engagement are preconditions for better schools, safer streets, faster economic growth, more effective government, and healthier lives. This is why crime prevention strategies must be focused on enhancing social inclusion, and engaging marginalized groups as assets, not treating them as liabilities, within their communities. This is especially the case with young people under the age of 30 who often make up over 70% of the population

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