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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to explore the effectiveness of the CID VTS Harare in reducing motor vehicle theft and robbery in Harare for a period of January 2010 to December 2012 and how the section may improve to reduce theft and robbery of motor vehicles. This came about because there was rampant vehicle theft and robbery in Harare. No known scientific research on motor vehicle theft and robbery has ever been conducted in Harare District, thus the objective of this study was to contribute in this field. Research objectives of the study are to determine the role of the Police in reducing vehicle theft and robbery, to establish factors hindering the successful execution of duty by the Police, to examine the causes of vehicle theft and robbery and to recommend ways in which the Police can improve fighting crimes of vehicle theft and robbery. Data collection consist of, both qualitative and quantitative methods. An exploratory method consisting of a literature review and materials related to the topic was used. Furthermore in-depth interviews and semi-structured interviews were conducted involving Prosecutors, victims of vehicle theft and robbery and inmates convicted of vehicle theft and robbery. In addition, questionnaires were administered to the CID VTS Harare members. Tables, figures, bar graphs and pie charts were used for data presentation. The results of the research revealed that the effectiveness of the CID VTS Harare in reducing vehicle theft and robbery was greatly hindered by a number of factors. Such factors included inadequate funding to procure state of the art equipment, poor networking with stakeholders, inadequate support from the courts, lack of support by neighbouring governments and drastic shortage of manpower. Recommendations suggested in the study include the use of bait vehicles, installation of cameras and lights on streets and parking areas, ensure adequate funding to procure state of the art equipment, adequate staffing of the Section, introduction of the window vehicle chassis number etching, use of affidavits in the reporting process and introduction of vertical prosecution.