BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHALLENGES OF POLICING WHITE COLLAR CRIME. A CASE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (CID) SERIOUS FRAUD SQUAD HARARE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2012.

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B1026147

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONOURS DEGREE IN POLICE AND SECURITY STUDIES OF BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION.

APRIL 2013
ABSTRACT

This study investigated the challenges experienced by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Serious Fraud Squad Harare in policing White collar crime. It covered the period between 01 January 2011 and 31 December 2012. The research was prompted by the realisation that cases of white collar crime were increasing on an alarming rate while cases pending finalisation were increasing annually despite frantic efforts by various stakeholders to contain white collar crime. The researcher was also prompted into undertaking this research after the realisation that the subject of white collar crime is under researched especially in Zimbabwe. CID Serious Fraud Squad as a specialist department of the ZRP that deals with cases of white collar crime is in the public eye looked upon to be at the forefront of combating white collar crime through its various initiatives, policies and strategies. The researcher thus sought to establish the challenges being faced by this department, establish the drivers for the perceived rise in cases of white collar crime, come up with solutions to these challenges through research and make recommendations. A population size of seventy eight (78) elements which is the total number of employees in the department was used. From this population, a sample size of twenty five (25) participants was drawn. This is 32% of the entire population and was considered sufficient to represent the entire population. For this project, the researcher used two research strategies namely the case study and the archival research strategies. Both the quantitative and qualitative approaches were employed during data collection, collation and analysis although the qualitative approach dominated. Two research tools were used and these comprise questionnaires and interviews. The study revealed that, indeed, cases of white collar crime are on an increase, cases pending finalisation were also increasing annually while the detection rate was falling. Human and material shortage, lack of training and development programmes, leniency by the legal system on white collar offenders are among the major challenges experienced by CID Serious Fraud Squad Harare. Partnering other stakeholders, initiating training and developmental programmes for employees as well as establishing a website are some among the recommendations made by the researcher. The researcher finally recommended further or future research on the causes for the delays in finalisation of court cases as well as the reasons for the sympathy allegedly extended to white collar criminals by the criminal justice system as these areas were not investigated in this project.