AN EVALUATION OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE BORDER CONTROL UNIT AS A SECURITY AGENT AT THE BORDER. A CASE STUDY OF ZRP VICTORIA FALLS BORDER CONTROL UNIT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2010 TO DECEMBER 2011

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ABSTRACT

Border crimes in Victoria Falls are on the increase at a time Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) is having its police officers manning the borders and ports of entries each day and night. In the year 2008, ZRP introduced a new section Border Control Unit (BCU) but since then border crimes are still on the increase. The study sought to evaluate the relevance of Zimbabwe Republic Police Border Control Unit as a security agent at the border. The researcher employed a case study method and data was collected using questioners, interviews and documents. A sample of 100 participants was chosen from a population of 300 people. A simple random technique was used and the participants comprised of Zimbabwe Revenue Authority officers, Immigration officers, Clearance agencies and ZRP Duty Uniform Branch. Bar graphs, pie charts and tables were used to present data. From the analysis of the findings, the researcher noted that BCU Victoria Falls is relevant and the increase in crime statistics is as a result of numerous arrests made by BCU at the border. The findings also indicated that, BCU is playing a major role in interdicting criminal activities and detecting criminality at the border. In addition, it was revealed that, BCU is not practicing multiagency policing at the Victoria Falls border which gives criminals the latitude to commit criminal activities without being intercepted. The study recommends the practicing of multiagency policing to cement the relevancy of BCU at the border. Furthermore the study recommends the training of BCU officers for them to be well versed with border crimes and methods of detecting and investigating. The study however revealed that all stakeholders are into corrupt activities a move which is hindering effectiveness on border security. The researcher recommends a similar study to be executed on a wider scale on other borders and other ports of entries in order to generalize these findings from the case study.