

Managing Repeat Offender Information in South Africa: The Need for a Motor Vehicle Crime Information Management Strategy

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore the significance of implementing a motor vehicle crime information management strategy to identify repeat offenders who commit motor vehicle crimes in South Africa. Repeat offending substantially contributes to South Africa's high motor vehicle crime rate because of the insufficient management of crime information. The results of this study revealed that a motor vehicle crime information management strategy does not exist in South Africa resulting that repeat offenders of motor vehicle crimes are not identified as repeat offenders upon re-arrest and released on bail after committing a similar consecutive offence providing offenders the opportunity to reoffend. This study contributes to the body of knowledge by recommending a motor vehicle crime information management strategy that would act as a crime information management tool to efficiently address repeat motor vehicle crime offending. The practical relevance of this crime information management strategy would empower first responders, investigating officers and prosecutors with sufficient criminal information identifying vehicle crime offenders as repeat offenders upon re-arrest to facilitate the successful opposing of bail denying these offenders the opportunity to reoffend.

Keywords: Crime information management, motor vehicle crime, repeat offender, South Africa.

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