

## INVESTIGATION INTO DEVICES USED TO CURB CAR HIJACKING IN MAMELODI TOWNSHIP. GAUTENG PROVINCE

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### Abstract

Carjacking, also referred to as car hijacking, is a type of robbery where a vehicle is taken from the driver through the use of force, often with the involvement of firearm. South Africa has one of the highest car hijacking rates in the world, with an average of 46 vehicles hijacked daily, or 2 every hour. Technology devices were created to help law enforcement officers to prevent and effectively investigate vehicle hijacking crimes. The purpose of the study was to identify technological devices and other strategies that police can utilize to deter and resolve cases of vehicle hijacking in Mamelodi Township. Additionally, the study aimed to identify all stakeholders from both private and public sectors that can collaborate with the police to prevent the enigma of car hijacking. The study also uncovered all the effects that vehicle hijacking has on the victims of the crime. A qualitative research methodology was adopted for this paper. The study adopted the social learning theory which explains that criminal behaviour is learned just like other criminal behaviour, car hijacking crime is also learned in society. Data collection was done through purposive sampling as it allowed the researcher to choose participants who were well-informed on the topic being explored. Data was collected by using one-on-one or face-to-face semi-structured interviews. Based on the findings. The recommendations of the study include the introduction of new technology devices, adoption of crime prevention strategies from other countries by the police, priority on collaboration between the South African police service and private sectors, installation of devices by vehicle owners to prevent vehicle hijackings, and provision of quality service by the police.

**Keywords:** *Crime prevention strategy, Car hijacking, South African Police Service (SAPS), partnership policing, Community Policing Forum (CPF), Technology policing, technological devices, new technology, old technology, community policing*

### 1. Introduction.

Car hijacking has several impacts that are experienced by victims. According to Peacock (2013:189), victims of car hijacking experience several consequences which include bodily harm, psychological distress, and significant financial loss. Through the use of technology devices by the SAPS, the vehicle owners, and other role players in crime prevention could assist in curbing car hijacking. Technology policing plays a crucial role in policing by enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement and public perception (Strom, 2017:10). The study further explored the use of devices to curb vehicle hijacking, which includes the involvement of private sectors and other stake holders in crime prevention who can aid the SAPS in Mamelodi to prevent car hijacking. Lamb, October, Nitshikulwe and Jacobs (2021:23) noted that, the 1996 National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) highlights the importance of partnership policing in preventing crime, asserting that the government cannot tackle crime by itself; it must be a shared responsibility. The aim of partnership policing is to provide a community with service that is improved, responsive, efficient, and effective (Olutola, 2012:30). The study has also recognized various stakeholders in preventing vehicle hijacking, including private security companies, Community Police Forums, the tracking companies, and insurance companies. Felson, De Melo, Xu and Jiang (2022:109) argue that vehicle hijacking can be prevented through the use of police patrol, environmental design and when society adopt

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the use of inside the car devices such as car-tracking devices. According to Kruger (2024:3) vehicle hijacking is not only a problem in South Africa. Carjacking crime in USA remain as a phenomenon that increases yearly, the city of Washington DC recorded an increase of 143% carjacking in the period of 2019 and 2020 (Felson *et al.* 2022:109). Mozambique has one of the highest rates of vehicle hijacking in Africa (Maluleka and Dlamini, 2019: 135). The modus operandi of carjacking is consistent from South Africa to various countries, with a firearm being necessary to carry out the offense (Kruger 2024:3). According to Makopo, Chabalala and Maluleke (2021:19) vehicle hijacking remains as the serious violence crime across the globe.

## Literature Review and Conceptual clarifications

### The concept of policing technology

Egbert and Leese (2020:45) define policing technology as any system used as part of a policing functions, including software or electronic devices, that is capable of collecting, retaining, or analysing information associated with any specific individual or group, including but not limited to audio, video, images, text, meta-data, location, spectral imaging or biometric information. Mason (2015:26) describes the aim of policing technology as reinforcing crime management through bettering the capacity of law enforcement to recognize and track offenders, especially those who reoffend frequently. This fosters the detection of locations and circumstances that significantly contribute to criminal activity, improves interactions between police and the community, bolsters evidence gathering, and optimizes police deployment and strategies.

### Technology Innovation in Policing

Koper and Lum (2015:14) state that technological advancements in law enforcement have made police work more enjoyable and convenient for officers. Strom (2017:3) opined that technology policing has been implemented over the past decades; and it has been considered as a significant initiative for by law enforcement agencies. And these inventions have improved interaction between the police and the citizens they serve immensely. Taylor, Simpson and Sidorova (2015:2) informed that technology in policing was internationally introduced during the early 1970s and 1980s. From 2000 to 2001, the South African National Crime Combatting Strategy allocated resources for new technological innovation in the SAPS to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in fighting crime (Semenya 2012:24). Koper and Lum (2015:14) argue that technological innovation offers multiple advantages, primarily by allowing police to easily retrieve historical data stored in databases, aiding them in their investigations. Secondly, technology cultivates officers who are better informed, more efficient, and possess extensive knowledge. Strom (2017:4) highlighted that recent innovations in technology, including computers, drones, CCTV cameras, and in-car devices, have significantly changed policing in a way that has enhanced the effectiveness of police work.

### Old developed technologies in policing

Old technology refers to devices that are obsolete, i.e., those who are no longer used. These include devices such as computer hardware, software, services, or practices that are no longer used (Ford, 2010:2). An old developed technology in policing includes whistles, foot patrol, nightstick, alarm boxes or callboxes for communication, horseback patrol and Police car patrol and two-way car radios.

**Whistles:** Lamb, *et al* (2021:11) reported that whistles were first used in law enforcement agencies in the 1870s and 1880s. These devices were intended to indicate a victim's need for assistance and frighten off potential attackers. They were thus used to draw attention to in order to prevent an attack.

**Foot patrol:** According to Deflem (2014:4), foot patrol was crime prevention strategy between 1700s and 1800s. The purpose of foot patrols was to curb misconduct, increase police visibility, create contact with the community, curb crime, and enhance the feeling of public safety (Andresen and Malleson, 2014:187).

**Alarm boxes and callboxes:** Deflem (2014:2) and Mason (2015:12) agreed that callboxes and alarm boxes were introduced during the mid-1800s. They were utilised for communication between the police and police stations, and between citizens and the police.

**Nightstick:** Bachelet (2020:3) stated that the police carried the nightstick as a compliance tool. The baton had multiple uses. It was used for self-defence, guiding traffic, detain suspects, and as a mean of communication.

### New developed technologies in policing

Lesage and Natal (2019:577) defined new technology as any new invention, discovery, enhancement, or innovation that was not accessible to the acquiring agency on the effective date. This includes new processes,

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emerging technology, machinery, and enhancements to new procedures or software. A new developed technology in policing includes police car camera, LPR, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, drones and street lighting.

**Closed -Circuit television:** Carli (2008:4) noted that video surveillance, or CCTV, is a technology-driven monitoring system that employs cameras to observe public areas. Law enforcement and security organizations employ this technology to deter and pursue criminal activities. CCTV surveillance prevents crime from happening; they deter potential offenders through the threat of being caught (Moyo 2019:6).

**Drones:** Drew (2020:8) emphasised that the use of drones in the investigation and prevention of crime have proved to be highly effective. Drone devices could also be utilised in search and rescue operations, accident reconstruction, and crowd monitoring, among others. The majority drones are equipped with zoom cameras.

**Police in-car computer technology:** Fatih and Bekir (2015:294) explained that police in-car computer technology, which is also known as the Mobile Data Computer (MDC), is an electronic device that law enforcement officers utilise in their patrol vehicle to access information and enter data. The device also provides details pertaining to the wanted person or vehicle.

**License plate readers:** As stated by Lum, Hibdon, Cave, Koper and Merola (2011:322), law enforcement agencies employ Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), commonly referred to as License Plate Reader (LPR) technology, for detecting, deterring, and preventing crime. Haines (2009:14) along with Roberts and Casanova (2012:14) agreed that the aim of the LPR or the ANPR is to detect or recognize vehicles that have been stolen and are utilized to carry out other offenses.

**Street lighting:** Vincent, Mamac, Palma, Labastida, Garay and Rabia (2022:7) explained that street lighting is any electrical lighting that is installed outside the house to illuminate the environment. The devices allow police officers during patrol to recognise wanted persons, potential offenders, wanted vehicle, and to identify on-going criminal activities at night.

Both old and new developed technologies in law enforcement significantly contribute to deterring and preventing vehicle hijacking.

#### **Modus operandi of vehicle hijackers**

According to Kruger (2024:3), sophisticated organised syndicates carry out carjacking. Each member of these syndicates is assigned a particular task in the group, for instance, one might hold the firearm, another might be a driver, while another member might be responsible for identifying victims or targeting vehicles (Kruger, 2024:3). MacDonnell (2018:3) stated that hijackers choose their targets carefully and employ different tactics to attack them. These methods include approaching victims at red lights, in parking lots, or other locations. Some of the car hijackers cause minor vehicle accidents, or fake personal injuries to trick victims into stopping their vehicles.

#### **Role Players in Combatting Vehicle Hijacking in South Africa**

Olutola (2012:30) notes that the identification of role players in combating crime provides the necessary information on individuals or bodies that are role players in crime fighting. Below are role players in combating vehicle hijacking crime.

##### **Community Police Forum**

Selomane (2010:55) states that, the NCPS (1996) emphasized the need for the SAPS and communities to work together to combat crime, while the SAPS Act (no. 68 of 1995) requires every police station to create a Community Police Forum (CPF). The purpose of the CPF is to encourage the police and community to work together in the fight against crime.

##### **Private Security Companies in South Africa**

Minnaar (2005:4) stated that Amendment Act (no. 56 of 2001) promotes collaboration between the private security sector and the police to prevent crime. Minnaar (2005:4) also emphasised that some measures for preventing crime offered by private security include securing premises, patrolling, responding to alarms or crime reports, and managing crowds.

##### **Vehicle tracking companies in South Africa:**

According to Senekal (2016:68) section 199 of the South African Constitution, specifically focuses on security services, which includes vehicle-tracking companies. Tracking companies provides tracking devices that are installed in the vehicle that enables the law enforcement agencies to locating a specific motor vehicle or monitoring its movement. Tracking devices are very effective to quickly and correctly locate stolen or robbed motor vehicles and reunite them with their owners (Ngumbi 2016:10).

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### **Insurance Industry in South Africa:**

According to Minnaar (2005:91), the insurance companies carry financial interest over the insured risk. This could be a motor vehicle, a building property or life cover policy. Insurance companies will encourage motor vehicles owners to fit tracking devices in their motor vehicles. Vehicle owners who complies will have their monthly premiums reduced accordingly

### **Strategies to prevent car hijackings**

The police's primary goal is to prevent crime. According to Felson et al. (2022:115), carjacking prevention and reduction can be achieved through different strategies. Below are strategies used to prevent vehicle hijacking crime.

#### **Situational crime prevention strategy**

Rad and Shadmanfar (2015:1660) suggest that situational crime prevention entails implementing targeted measures to alter the immediate environment in order to deter or decrease specific criminal activities by making them more challenging, perilous, or less enticing or justifiable. Ways to prevent crime in certain situations include using CCTV, marking property, attaching alarm tags, and enhancing lighting and visibility in public spaces through environmental design.

#### **Social crime prevention strategy**

According to Palmay (2001:3), the 1998 White Paper on Safety and Security (CSP, 1998) defines social crime prevention as efforts to diminish the factors that lead to specific crimes. Grant (2015:4) further explains that the purpose of the approach is to encourage community engagement, enacting programs to prevent issues before they arise, enhancing safety in the community, supporting families, fostering social unity, and enhancing overall quality of life for everyone.

#### **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design**

According to Lee, Park and Jung (2016:2) define Crime Prevention through Environmental Design as a proactive approach to fighting crime which emphasizes the importance of well-designed built environments in reducing both the fear and occurrence of crime while also enhancing quality of life. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design provides the following strategies to reduce crime:

- ❖ Decreasing crime opportunities by implementing carefully designed pedestrian pathways, suitable informal trading spaces, diverse usage of spaces, and longer operational hours for facilities.
- ❖ Ensuring proper illumination in parks, on streets, and pedestrian pathways,

#### **Neighbourhood watch as crime prevention strategy**

Colover and Quinton (2018:12) highlights that a neighbourhood watch program is a group of local residents who wish to improve their quality of life and reduce crime in their neighbourhood by cooperating with local law enforcement. The national neighbourhood watch program was establishing by the National Sheriffs Association (NSA) the in 1972 in America, in order to support both citizens and law enforcement (Colover & Quinton, 2018:11).

#### **Police visibility as crime prevention strategy**

Davis and Snyman (2005:236) argue that a visible police presence should be recognised as an effective approach to reduce vehicle-hijacking activity. Visible policing, which includes increased police operations such as roadblocks and planned police patrols in high-risk crime hot spots, has the potential to be very effective in discouraging crime in the near term. According to Zinn (2002:3), police visibility makes the police more accessible to civilians and meets expectations by encouraging cooperation between police and citizens, preventing crime and incivilities, increasing safety, and reducing fear of crime.

#### **Community Patroller programme as crime prevention strategy**

Community patrollers are probably the most common type of community policing at most police stations around the world, and they are utilised as the major policing approach for crime prevention (Modise 2023:3458). The Community Patrollers are deployed in a specific area to patrol and monitor in order to reduce crime rates. According to the Gauteng Community Patroller programme Framework Document 2011, the programme is intended at tackling safety issues in disadvantaged communities that cannot afford to hire private security to protect and safeguard them (Malherbe, 2013:3).



### **Legislative and Policy Framework vehicle hijacking crime in SA South African Police Service with regard to the policing of vehicle hijacking crime.**

Section 205 (2) of the 1996 South African Constitution enjoins the SAPS the power to establish the functions and powers of the SAPS. Moreover, the SAPS Act states that there is a need to provide the police service throughout the national territory to:

- ❖ Ensure the safety and security of all persons and property in the national territory;
- ❖ Uphold and safeguard the fundamental rights of every person as guaranteed by Chapter 2 of the Constitution;
- ❖ Ensure co-operation between the Service and the communities it serves in the combating of crime;
- ❖ Reflect respect for victims of crime and an understanding of their needs; and
- ❖ Ensure effective civilian supervision over the Service (Joubert 2010:14).

### **Mandated Victim Empowerment Policy regards vehicle hijacking crime**

Davis and Snyman (2005:235) emphasis that, the hijacking experience constitutes a psychological trauma as the victim experience a sense of powerlessness and terror, which was experience during the close contact with the perpetrator whereby deadly force was used against the victim. **Aims and Objectives of the Victim Empowerment Policy as follow:**

- ❖ Making sure that victims are provided with both emotional and practical
- ❖ Making sure that continued victimisation is avoided, and providing a place of refuge.
- ❖ Helping individuals cope with trauma.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopts the social learning theory on the use of technology devices to curb car hijackings in Mamelodi. This is because the identified theory proposes that several people learn many things by seeing them. In the case of this study, it is identified that car hijackers keep on coming up with devices that they can use to hijack motorists. However, the responsive team to these hijackings do not have the necessary devices to counter those of criminals (Bezuidenhout, 2010: 135).

#### **Social Learning Theory**

According to Koutroubas and Galanakis (2022:317) the Social Learning Theory, also known as the Differential Association-reinforcement Theory of Criminal Behaviour, explains that criminal behaviour is acquired in the same way as any other behaviour. The main point of this theory is that criminal behaviour might be acquired not just through interacting and communicating with criminals, but also through observation and imitation (Koutroubas and Galanakis, 2022:317). The way that hijackings take place in a township such as Mamelodi is alarming. The SAPS members have arrested many perpetrators of this crime, but other perpetrators are still committing this crime. The reason behind the use of this theory is based on the idea that people keep on committing this crime because they have observed and even learned from those around them who commit this crime. The researcher used social learning theory to examine how exposure to violence plays a role in perpetuating the cycle of violence, showing interest in the process of socialisation. According to Emilly (2024: 243) children can pick up interpersonal interaction styles and violent coping skills simply by observing negative or violent interactions between important adults. Furthermore, Emilly (2024: 243) indicates that most young individuals behave like offenders as they imitate family, friends, or even unknown criminals. For example, car hijacking is associated with violence and most young people associate with the notorious car hijackers because they see their acts as the correct way to carry themselves in terms of the social learning theory.

### **Methodological Framework**

#### **Research Design**

Creswell (2009:22) described a research design as a strategy used to gather data to enable the researcher address the study questions. The researcher adopted a qualitative approach for this research. Creswell (2009:22) stated that the qualitative approach promotes researcher-participant interaction and it enables the researcher to observe participants in their natural setting. The researcher believed that this approach would enable them to solicit opinions about devices that are used to curb car/vehicle hijacking phenomenon. The researcher used purposive sampling because the participants were selected based on their knowledge on the subject. According to Vasileiou, Barnett, Thorpe and Young (2018:17), purposive sampling is a sampling technique in form of a non-probability sampling that qualitative researcher use to recruit participants who carries a capacity to provide relevant richly textured information about the phenomenon under investigation. The study initially aimed to select a sample of 30 participants, five (5) SAPS members in Mamelodi township, five (5) CPF members, five (5) insurance vehicle

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hijacking investigators, five ( 5) security response officials, five( 5) tracker response officials and five ( 5) victims. However only 24 participants were available to be interviewed. The researcher utilised the semi-structured interviewing technique for this study. Semi-structured interview technique uses one-on-one interview and open-ended questions guide. This technique enabled the researcher to determine the kinds of data needed. Ruslin, Raska, Alhabsyi, and Syan (2022:24) explain that the benefit of conducting a one-on-one interview is that it shields participants from outside influence and allows the researcher to maintain control of the interview process, while scheduling appointments with the interviewees. This paper had the following goals:

- ❖ To identify technological devices used by the police to investigate car hijacking in Mamelodi police station.
- ❖ To establish private companies that can collaborate with the SAPS to prevent and investigate crimes reported.
- ❖ To identify the perceived effects of car hijacking on victims of this crime.

The primary data was collected by the researchers through interviews, followed by a thorough review of handwritten notes. They then analysed the data, breaking it down into more manageable sections, before categorizing it based on topics and themes.

### Discussion of Findings

Because this article has a small focus, it will only cover the most important discoveries. The highlighted investigations are listed below.

#### **Theme 1: What is your understanding of the concepts “technology devices and “car hijacking”?**

**The participants defined the concept technology devices as follow:**

- ❖ (Participants 1, January, 12. 2024) define the concept “technology device “as an electronic device or a computer system (hardware and software) designed or invented to improve a task or function. Below are some of the participants’ views:
- ❖ (Participants 15, January, 15. 2024) stated that technology devices are electronic-powered devices and system to process and share information.
- ❖ (Participants 3, January, 25. 2024) opted to link technology device and car hijacking by stating that technology devices in relation to car hijacking include signal jammer used by criminals to intercept communication or linkage between the vehicles and receiver.

**The participants defined the concept car hijacking as follow:**

- ❖ (Participants 1, January, 12. 2024) was of the view that car hijacking is a violent and life threatening way of stealing a vehicle while it is being occupied by the driver or passenger.
- ❖ ( Participant 9, January , 30. 2024) stated that car hijacking involves a direct contact between the victim and the perpetrator, and the perpetrator use force to take position of the keys and the vehicle from the victim, the force can lead to death or injuries to the victim.
- ❖ (Participant 8, January, 30. 2024) was of the view that car hijacking refers to individuals who take other people’s cars without their concerns, which they use force to take control of the car.
- ❖ (Participants 2, February 20. 2024) define car hijacking is a criminal activity or act of forcefully taking a vehicle from their rightful owners.

#### **Theme 2: From [based on] your knowledge, does the SAPS have any technological devices to curb car hijacking?**

The comments of the participants made it evident that the SAPS lack devices to prevent car hijacking, and many of them insisted on this point. In response to remarks, a few SAPS officers stated that they had not been given any equipment that would have allowed them to stop car theft or carjacking since they started working for the SAPS. Below are some participant’s opinions:

- ❖ (Participants 10, March 3. 2024) stated that, SAPS is more responsive than preventative when it comes to crime. They act after the fact; they do not have any device to curb vehicle hijacking.
- ❖ (Participants ,4 March 10. 2024) was the view that it can’t be said that SAPS has devices to curb car hijacking, but from the experience and knowledge acquired, SAPS has the devices to try and recover vehicles after they have been hijacked.

- ❖ (Participant 1, January, 12. 2024) states that SAPS have LPR cameras that will flag a stolen vehicle license plate number when the vehicle passes these cameras or gets pulled off during the roadblock and this will assist the SAPS in recovering the vehicle that was reported stolen or hijacked.
- ❖ (Participants 2, February 20. 2024) share knowledge by stating that, SAPS has various technological devices and systems to help curb car hijackings. For example, SAPS make use of vehicle tracking systems, which enable them to trace the movements of stolen cars and apprehend the hijackers. But, not every SAPS vehicle has this system. This system can be found on few highway patrol vehicles, Tactical Response Team (TRT) vehicles, and sometimes one or two vehicles at certain police stations.
- ❖ (Participants 14, March 15. 2024) argue that SAPS do not have any technology devices that can be used to curb car hijacking because most of the victims end up not getting their vehicle back after they have been taken from them.
- ❖ (Participants 19, March 15. 2024) argue that local SAPS officials of the Mamelodi police station do not have any devices or technology device to curb car hijacking and they are not well equipped to prevent car hijacking, as in some situation they even fail to attend crime scene due to lack of vehicles in the police station.
- ❖ (Participants 17, January, 20. 2024) was of the opinion that SAPS have new technology devices that have been introduced, which include the new digital radio communication system that assists the SAPS in responding quickly to crime. The CPF, also play a role in pointing out hot spots to the SAPS in order for them to patrol the area.

The majority of the participants were certain that the SAPS does not have new technological devices to curb car hijacking. But, few participants had a different perspective. They were of view that the SAPS have introduced new technological devices to curb and prevent certain crimes including the vehicle hijacking. Moreover, some participants emphasised that the SAPS has introduced drone camera as “an eye in the sky” to patrol and oversee the crimes that are taking place on the ground.

### **Theme 3: In your opinion, which private sector [organisations] have to assist in fighting car hijacking crime?**

When asked which private sector have to assist in fighting car hijacking crime. Participants mentioned that private security companies play a major role as they can install security features such as CCTV cameras to prevent car hijacking. They also mentioned that these companies patrol the areas, which have been identified as hotspots of car hijacking. Below are some of the views of the participants’:

- ❖ (Participants 18, March 20. 2024) stated that the motor industry could design cars that are difficult to operate after being hijacked or stolen; secondly, private security and tracker companies can respond better to these criminal acts; and lastly, informal sector panel beaters, as they buy these parts from unknown sources, can report such sellers to the SAPS.
- ❖ (Participant 14 March 15. 2024) stated that, in her opinion Security Company called Fidelity is one of the best private securities to fight car hijacking based on the technology resources they have.

Out of 24 participants, two participants intensely criticized the involvement of tracking companies as role players in curbing car hijacking. They intensely because they believe that tracking companies are responsible for providing information to criminals about the location vehicles that have been fitted with tracking device.

### **Theme 4: What are the effects of car hijacking on victims?**

Not All participants have been victims of this crime; majority answered the question based on their understanding, rather than experience. The researcher discovered some other relevant information of the hijacking crimes from victims. The majority of the victims expressed their emotional trauma such as anger, selfless, powerlessness and disbelief from the hijacking. Below are some of the participants’ views:

- ❖ (Participants 18, March 20. 2024) shared can experience by stating that acts of hijackers leave long-lasting trauma and a feeling of helplessness. Furthermore, it breaks trust because everybody is treated with suspicion, even when the victim may help.
- ❖ (Participants 8 February 20. 2024) believe that victims would suffer from trauma because in most cases their lives are threatened.
- ❖ (Participants 20, March 20. 2024) was of the view that, victims may also feel a sense of financial loss and violation as their property has been taken away from them. The trauma from the experience can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder and related mental health issues.

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Participant 18 is the victim; he states that they hijacked his car, and the vehicle was recovered because he had a tracker in it. (Participant 7, February, 15, 2024) shared a negative experience he had with the SAPS. The participant stated that the hijackers hit him on the head with the gun, and robbed him of his car. It was also found that they left the victim on the crime scene, but he managed to wake. The victim was also able to report the incident to the police, but they did nothing in his case. Nonetheless, the victim was informed that police would investigate the crime, although he never received any feedback from the SAPS. The study also established that no tracking was installed, and the vehicle was not insured.

### Recommendations

The SAPS in Mamelodi should adopt advanced technology devices that will enhance their effectiveness, improve their skill in curbing car hijacking, and improve their investigation function. The new advanced technology devices that the police can adopt and use to minimise and curb car hijacking, which include drones, in-car computer systems, and more installations of LRP. The benefit of new technology is that the police will be able to communicate and share important information with other stakeholders in crime prevention and lastly it can help in prevention crime. The police in Mamelodi should prioritize a good relationship with all respected private sectors such as tracking companies and security companies. With the tracking companies, it will enhance the effectiveness of the SAPS by tracking and recovering hijacked car.

In collaboration with the security companies, real evidence obtained from the CCTV cameras will be shared with the SAPS to intensify their investigation. The police and other relevant role players who play a role in curbing car hijacking should make to educate the vehicle owners about the impact car hijacking may cause. Prevention measures should be identified with them; the tracker companies should educate the vehicle owners about the importance of having a vehicle tracker device in their cars; and the insurance company should inform their customers about the benefits of having tracker devices in their cars. The SAPS should liaise with neighbouring countries and international countries to identify and learn which strategies they utilise to curb car hijacking. In this way, the police will have more strategies to fight against car hijacking.

### Conclusions.

This research aimed to identify devices used to curb car hijacking in Mamelodi Township. In conclusion, the study has revealed that there are no specific technological devices to curb car hijacking at Mamelodi police station. It was revealed through a literature review and responses from participants that SAPS cannot deal with car hijacking crime alone. Its capacity to curb or prevent car hijacking is limited; the involvement of private sectors such as private security companies, tracker companies, and CPF members plays a significant role in preventing and curbing car hijacking. It further concludes that if the police adopt and use new technology device and other prevention strategies identified in this study the police can reduce and prevent car hijacking and lastly it will enhance their police ability, effectiveness, and capability in preventing crime.

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