



The use of Intelligence-Led Policing framework to combat traffic police corruption

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Abstract

Intelligence-led policing is becoming vital in combating traffic police corruption. Utilising data analysis to identify patterns of corruption allows authorities to allocate resources effectively to high-risk areas and individuals. It enhances transparency and accountability within the police force while building public trust by prioritising integrity and fairness. Embracing this approach is key to reducing corruption and ensuring that traffic enforcement benefits the public. As a result, the objective of this study was to evaluate the use of the Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) framework to combat traffic police corruption. This qualitative study employed the evaluation research design. The targeted study sample comprised private motorists from Modjadjiskloof, Tzaneen, Mokopane, and Polokwane, as well as members of the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) and the Department of Transport and Community Safety in Limpopo. The total sample size for the study consisted of Thirty-four (34) participants, comprising Ten (10) private vehicle drivers from Tzaneen, 10 from Modjadjiskloof, and 10 from Polokwane.

Additionally, Two (02) members each from the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety and the RTMC were selected. The semi-structured face-to-face interviews were conducted with all the participants. Inductive Thematic Content Analysis (TCA) was used to analyse the data. Traffic officers use the ILP framework and Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) to combat corruption. The Anti-corruption Joint Operations conduct these approaches and have successfully apprehended the suspected traffic officers. Also, efforts to community engagements are achieved through Radio and Television (TV) visits. Fostering a culture of integrity through ethics training and internal oversight, such as body-worn cameras and regular audits, which enhance transparency and deter corrupt practices, is recommended. Effective collaboration among Anti-corruption Agencies is crucial for enhancing global governance integrity and transparency. Operational and strategic intelligence can be crucial in reducing corruption among traffic police officers.

Keywords: Combatting, Corruption, Intelligence-Led Policing framework, Motorists, Traffic police Officials,

Introduction

Hipgrave (2013) provides that tackling corruption within traffic police forces presents a multifaceted challenge that necessitates implementing innovative strategies and one practical approach can be an application of the ILP framework, which emphasises the systematic collection and analysis of data to

identify patterns of corrupt behaviour and facilitate targeted interventions. By leveraging technology and data analytics, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) can uncover hidden corruption networks, monitor suspicious activities, and anticipate potential misconduct (Hipgrave, 2013). This proactive stance enables a more efficient allocation of resources, ensuring that integrity is maintained within the ranks of the traffic police. However, various evaluation methods tailored to police forces at different hierarchical levels have already been implemented (Council, 2018). The ILP framework has successfully addressed numerous offences (Vidović, 2022). For example, Waters (2006) notes that England and Wales have adopted various strategies to detect and prevent crimes, such as knowledge monitoring and program observation.

Additionally, the Philadelphia Police Department successfully employed a crime-focused approach to achieve its objectives, effectively targeting individuals using the ILP framework (Carter & Fox, 2019). The ILP framework proved to be effective in reducing violent crimes, including misconduct among traffic officials (Ratcliffe, 2008). The importance of the ILP framework in crime prevention is highlighted by Ratcliffe (2008) and Capellan and Lewandowski (2019). Rather than a reactive approach, the ILP framework serves as an ongoing management programme with crime reduction objectives and specific values for policing strategies and approaches, challenging the traditional role of the police (Park, Han & Lee, 2013 & Ratcliffe, 2016). In addition, the ILP framework is a powerful tool that can create a strategic policing mission based on criminal intelligence, enabling the allocation of resources to identify and prevent traffic police corruption (Ratcliffe & Guidetti, 2008 & Ratcliffe, 2016). With the ILP framework, the local police departments can implement an engaging and comprehensive approach to crime reduction (Ratcliffe, 2003; Ratcliffe, 2008; Ratcliffe & Guidetti, 2008).

Carter and Fox (2019) highlight the vital role of well-coordinated intelligence analysts in law enforcement initiatives. Their research demonstrates that such teams can provide crucial insights and a focused strategic direction, significantly reducing criminal behaviour, including corruption. By working closely with managers and community organisations, these groups can develop tailored, intelligence-driven solutions to pressing challenges within their jurisdictions (Ratcliffe, 2016; Evans, 2012). The effectiveness of the ILP framework is further underscored by Bottema (2021), who contends that when LEAs are equipped with the right personnel and methodologies, they can substantially impact crime rates and promote positive changes within various communities. By forging strategic partnerships and embracing intelligence-based approaches, the ILP framework can tackle immediate criminal threats while enhancing diverse populations' overall safety and welfare (Ratcliffe, 2008).

Ratcliffe and Guidetti (2008) articulate that the ILP framework is a theoretical framework for executing policing activities. Correspondingly, John and Maguire (2012) highlight that the ILP framework functions can be touted as a crime reduction strategy that incorporates a systematic process of gathering and analysing information, thereby providing law enforcement with an enhanced understanding of criminal activities, such as corruption, and equipping them to prevent and combat crime effectively. The effectiveness of the ILP framework within the LEAs has been demonstrated across various crime domains, including organised crime, white-collar crime, cybercrime, financial crime, and national security (Amos, Tanimu Mahmoud & Idris, 2022). Nkhoma (2019) posits that artificial intelligence can be a potent tool in combating corruption within traffic policing. Likewise, Bottema and Barter (2024) advocate applying AI technology to address a broader spectrum of criminal activities, including corruption. The ILP framework establishes a commitment to combating crime and fostering safer communities, underscoring the transformative potential of this technology and the critical role of dedicated law enforcement professionals (Innes, Roberts, Innes & Lowe, 2020).

Theoretical Framework

Institutional Theory

This theory highlights the profound impact of state institutions' characteristics on the intricacies of corruption within the public sector. This encompasses clearly defined Anti-corruption mechanisms and the establishment of independent bodies endowed with enforcement powers, which are vital in combatting corrupt practices (Mashaba & Saurombe, 2023). Such institutional features are critical in crafting a governance framework to mitigate corruption while fostering a culture of integrity among police officers. The focus on organisational elements accentuates the duty of law enforcement personnel to cultivate an environment that champions integrity, accountability, and unwavering adherence to ethical standards (Wijaya & Kweniati, 2024). Given the inherent complexity and often contentious nature of policing, it is essential to devise a robust conceptual framework that reinforces accountability, procedural fairness, and compliance with the rule of law within the LEAs (Muntingh, Faull, Redpath & Petersen, 2022). This framework must address corruption and the potential for power misuse and actively promote public trust and confidence in policing practices.

Community-oriented policing emerges as a forward-thinking philosophy and an innovative organisational strategy that underscores the necessity of collaboration between the LEAs and the communities they serve (Castell, 2024). This approach contends that effective crime prevention and problem-solving initiatives must spring from a partnership that nurtures mutual trust, encourages open communication, and strategically addresses the root causes of crime and social unrest (Awoyemi, Attah, Basiru, & Leghemo, 2025). A policing theory that harmoniously integrates both traditional and community-oriented methods should reflect the empirical inclination of the LEAs to adapt to the evolving needs of the public while remaining responsive to the demands of the communities they protect (Ferrandino, 2014). However, it is important to recognise that such adaptations may not necessarily incite significant changes in their operational frameworks.

The ILP framework is a pivotal strategy in formulating a strategic policing mission that is intrinsically centred on criminal intelligence (Ratcliffe, 2016). By employing the ILP framework, police departments can effectively allocate resources to detect and prevent police corruption, particularly in traffic enforcement (Ratcliffe & Guidetti, 2008; Ratcliffe, 2016). This comprehensive approach to crime reduction, as expressed by Ratcliffe (2003) and elaborated upon in subsequent works (Ratcliffe, 2008; Ratcliffe & Guidetti, 2008), offers a holistic framework that intertwines information sharing, police accountability, and a proactive problem-solving strategy to enhance intelligence operations (Ratcliffe, 2016).

Cichoracki (2020) emphasises the crucial role of implementing intelligent systems, which are essential for directing policing efforts against various crimes, including corruption in traffic enforcement. However, the effectiveness of the ILP framework is intrinsically dependent on fostering collaboration among various agencies and engaging actively with the community to create a cooperative atmosphere conducive to crime reduction (Nanaghan, Irimiya, Omiepriye, & Usman, 2022; Leone, 2024). Such collaborative initiatives not only amplify the efficacy of policing strategies but also fortify the accountability and integrity of the LEAs as they serve and protect their communities.

Methodology

Unlike quantitative research, which predominantly relies on deductive reasoning, this paper employs qualitative research, offering a more exploratory and flexible approach (Gunawan, 2015). In this methodology, theories and concepts emerge organically from the data rather than being predetermined. This use of inductive reasoning allows researchers to delve deeply into the subject matter, uncovering rich insights and capturing nuanced aspects that may be overlooked by other research methodologies (Azungah, 2018). The evaluation research design was implemented to assess the application of an intelligence-led framework to combat traffic police corruption. The population under study included private motorists from Modjadjiskloof, Tzaneen, Mokopane, and Polokwane, as well as members of the

RTMC and the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety. These locations were selected due to the lack of prior research on this topic and their previous encounters with corruption, as highlighted in the problem statement. Private vehicle motorists play a crucial role in this study, given their frequent interactions with traffic police officers.

Consequently, purposive sampling was utilised to select participants from the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety and the RTMC to gain insights into the measures implemented to prevent traffic police corruption. The total sample comprised 34 participants: 10 private vehicle motorists from Tzaneen, 10 from Modjadjiskloof, and 10 from Polokwane, along with 02 representatives each from the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety and the RTMC. The study sites were intentionally chosen based on documented incidents of bribery or corruption involving the RTMC and other state agencies that resulted in the arrest of traffic police officers.

Intelligence-led investigations for traffic police corruption

The ILP framework presents a systematic approach to gathering, analysing, and organising information related to specific criminal activities or individuals of interest, as noted by Ratcliffe (2008). These investigations are strategically designed to identify and scrutinise various factors within a community and its environment that may contribute to criminal behaviour, according to Carter and Carter (2009). To successfully implement intelligence-led surveillance practices, LEAs must thoroughly reassess their existing policies and operational procedures (Capellan & Lewandowski, 2019). This involves updating protocols and embedding intelligence into the core of strategic planning to respond effectively to community concerns and challenges. Furthermore, it is critical that information sharing evolves from being a casual, informal practice to an established, official policy within law enforcement frameworks (Huber, 2020). Ensuring the acquisition and utilisation of high-quality data is paramount for effective intelligence gathering, as Cowan, Burton, and Moreto (2019) highlighted. To facilitate this process, the LEAs should prioritise the development of advanced analytical methods, comprehensive training programs, and robust technical support systems, which are essential for enhancing the effectiveness of the ILP framework Policing (ILP) initiatives (Ratcliffe, 2008).

Carter and Carter (2009) further emphasise that conducting intelligence-driven investigations is crucial for identifying, collecting, and analysing information related to corruption and its related issues, ultimately leading to the generation of actionable intelligence. This intelligence serves as a foundational element for crafting tactical and strategic responses to the multitude of threats that the LEAs face (Clapper, 2013). Recognising the intricate interplay between the intelligence cycle and intelligence-driven investigations is vital, as both components are essential for effective law enforcement operations (Budhram & Geldenhuys, 2018). The demand for robust intelligence capabilities within the LEAs has intensified in light of the rapidly evolving criminal landscape and the growing complexities of contemporary crime (Ratcliffe, 2013). Consequently, a well-developed intelligence framework empowers these agencies to anticipate criminal activities, predict the movements and strategies of organised crime groups, and allocate resources to enhance operational effectiveness (Ratcliffe, 2009). Such a proactive approach is essential for addressing present challenges and anticipating future threats in an increasingly dynamic environment.

Intelligence process for combating corruption activities

Budhram (2015) argues that South Africa takes a reactive approach to combat corruption, relying on internal audits and whistle-blowing hotlines to identify issues. However, the lack of integration among these organisations limits their effectiveness in analysing and predicting corruption (Budhram, 2015). Alternative methodologies, such as the ILP framework could enhance anti-corruption efforts to address this persistent issue. Ratcliffe (2003) emphasises that police leadership must allocate adequate resources to tackle corruption effectively. Without essential information, resource misallocation can hinder interventions (Oyelana & Kang'ethe, 2017). Maguire (2000) highlights the role of "fusion centers" in

the United States (US), which improve coordination amongst the LEAs for tackling complex issues like corruption (Peterson, 2005). Despite stringent measures, Naidoo (2013) notes that the integrity of Anti-corruption enforcement can be undermined by collective action challenges, reflecting a politicisation of enforcement. Intelligence allows law enforcement to target specific crime challenges (James, 2017) and involves a multi-step process of gathering and analysing information to produce actionable intelligence (Phythian, 2013). Prunckun (2013) emphasises that this system focuses on providing relevant intelligence, while Jensen Regens and Griffin (2013) underline the importance of transforming information into actionable intelligence despite the potential for inaccuracy. Across Limpopo Province, Anti-corruption agencies implement intelligence protocols to combat traffic policing corruption effectively (Cofan & Baloi, 2017). A robust intelligence process is critical for daily operations in the fight against corruption (Dalip, 2021). Phythian (2013) outlines several key phases in the intelligence process, from direction to re-evaluation.

The direction phase

A fundamental component of effective intelligence gathering is carefully identifying questions that necessitate a tailored response. This critical process involves delineating the specific types of intelligence that must be amassed to address the identified queries (Lowenthal, 2022). Given that each area of public policy presents its unique intelligence requirements, it becomes imperative to establish clear priorities in light of the inherent limitations of intelligence capabilities and resources (Phythian, 2013). The initial phase of the intelligence cycle, often called the direction phase, emerges from the expressed need for a particular intelligence product, which may be reports, assessments, or actionable insights (Bonfanti, 2018). This phase is not solely the domain of governmental agencies (Gibbs, McGarrell & Sullivan, 2015); it can also be instigated by private entities, including private investigators, legislators, and officials within state case departments, all of whom may leverage existing state structures and resources (Clark, 2019). Once a formal request has been articulated to identify the requisite intelligence product by relevant Anti-corruption agencies, the direction phase effectively mobilises (Dalip, 2021). This pivotal stage includes specifying the objectives of the intelligence collection effort, determining the necessary data sources, and outlining the methodologies to be employed, ultimately establishing a framework that guides subsequent stages of the intelligence cycle (Robson, 2022).

The collection phase

Effective data gathering is a cornerstone for acquiring pertinent information that addresses the core analytical question in the intelligence analysis phase (Pherson & Heuer, 2019). It is crucial to follow a meticulously crafted collection plan that outlines the specific types of information required to respond accurately to the analytical inquiry (Robson, 2022). This plan should reflect the best practices that subject matter experts from relevant fields advocate, ensuring a robust and methodical approach to data collection (Clark, 2012; Murphy, 2012; Kinsta, 2024). Carter and Chermak (2011) reveal that both open and closed sources can be utilised for data collection, encompassing a diverse range of entities, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), public institutions, and individuals involved in illicit activities. This comprehensive approach allows analysts to gather various perspectives and data points. Publicly accessible data can be found in physical formats, such as books, reports, digital repositories, databases, and online archives (Phythian, 2013). However, Phythian (2013) emphasises that the most crucial and sensitive confidential information is often heavily protected and not readily available to the public. This highlights the need for analysts to develop strategies to access legitimate channels for such data. Additionally, Carter and Chermak (2011) underscore the necessity of focusing on the accuracy of the data collected, stressing the importance of differentiating between relevant information and extraneous details. This vigilance is essential to ensure that the data collection process remains efficient and effective, ultimately facilitating a thorough analysis that is both comprehensive and targeted.

The collation phase

Collation is a crucial process that systematically organises data for both manual and electronic storage (Ratcliffe, 2016). This includes activities like digitising audio, converting images to text, and translating documents into English for analysis (Goldman, 2019). While automation can support collation, human oversight is essential for effective data conversion and decision-making, proper categorisation and indexing are necessary for effective storage in structured databases, as seen in law enforcement operations that enable rapid searches based on various criteria (Phythian, 2013). Advanced technological solutions with high storage capacities are important to optimise data organisation, especially for agencies investigating traffic police corruption in the Limpopo Province. Investing in modern data management tools can improve intelligence sharing and data continuity. Cloud platforms like the 'Dropbox and OneDrive' offer secure storage with structured folders that enhance retrieval and sharing. In intelligence analysis, collation is a key step in turning raw information into actionable insights (Robson, 2022).

The evaluation phase

Robson (2022) confirms that the evaluation stage is a crucial phase of the intelligence process. This stage ensures the effectiveness of intelligence gathering and its practical use, involving a systematic assessment of the collected data's appropriateness and validity. According to McElreath et al. (2013), the integrity of intelligence shared with law enforcement depends on the accuracy of this data, necessitating rigorous analysis before dissemination. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC] (2011) emphasises that analysts must meticulously examine collected data to identify critical information essential for investigations. They need to understand the relevance and reliability of all sources, especially when dealing with classified data. However, challenges exist, particularly with anti-corruption hotlines that receive distorted or irrelevant information, which undermines their effectiveness in addressing corruption within the traffic police (Perez Torres, 2020). To enhance intelligence quality, engaging community members, such as motorists, is essential (Nwagboso & Nagios, 2021). Their involvement can provide valuable insights and help gather critical information that may be unreported, ultimately aiding in developing targeted strategies to combat corruption in traffic policing (UNODC, 2011).

The analysis phase

A practical analysis is crucial for gathering intelligence after processing and evaluating information (Irwin & Mandel, 2019). Pythian (2009) highlights that analysis is central to intelligence processing, converting data into actionable insights for addressing issues like corruption in traffic police services (Pruckun, 2013). Cope (2004) states that data analysis helps identify crime patterns, link events, and profile suspects. According to Pruckun (2013), precise analysis is essential for informed decision-making, guiding agencies like Limpopo Province in combating traffic police corruption (Jensen et al., 2013). Brome (2013) describes the data analysis phase as involving data integration, rational reasoning, hypothesis testing, and further data collection. Anti-corruption agencies should gather and interpret data from various sources to understand corruption within traffic policing (Okafor, Opara & Adebisi, 2020). Deductive and inductive reasoning can help form hypotheses and address specific elements of corruption (Inuwa & Ononiwu, 2020).

After reviewing relevant information, analysts must develop effective intelligence products that describe and predict corrupt activities (Cozine, 2017). This analysis helps identify involved parties, forecast corruption instances, and evaluate threats (Luna-Pla & Nicolás-Carlock, 2020). Analysts should identify data gaps and collect additional information as necessary (Richards, 2010; UNODC, 2011). Analysis is key for the anti-corruption agencies to understand factors leading to corruption among traffic police officers, recognise susceptible areas, determine the frequency of corrupt practices, and identify the characteristics of involved officers and motorists (Nkhoma, 2019). This analytical framework supports financial assessments and the development of prevention strategies.

The distribution phase

Effectively sharing intelligence data is crucial for all stakeholders addressing identified issues (Chukwurah, Ige, Idemudia, & Adebayo, 2024). Prunckun (2013) stresses the importance of timely distribution to ensure the proper parties can use this information to prevent illicit activities. Jensen et al. (2013) note that proper intelligence distribution can proactively combat corruption and crime. The UNODC (2011) recommends various formats for intelligence products, such as written reports and oral presentations, to improve response strategies. However, a significant challenge in South Africa is the lack of coordination among Anti-corruption agencies, as pointed out by Pillay and Kluvers (2014). This results in a fragmented approach to combating corruption. To address this, a centralised nodal point for intelligence related to traffic police corruption is essential. Borgdorff (2012) suggests that specialised intelligence software could significantly enhance the collection, storage, and distribution of information. Such technology would allow for better organisation and analysis, supporting law enforcement efforts (Quinn, Forman, Harrod, Winter, Fowler, Krein, Gupta, Saint, Singh & Chopra, 2019). Nonetheless, sharing intelligence must be done with caution to protect ongoing investigations, maintaining a balance between information sharing and operational integrity for effective Anti-corruption efforts.

The re-evaluation phase

The intelligence process is a framework designed to deliver tailored intelligence to end users, emphasising continuous evaluation throughout the intelligence cycle to identify areas for enhancement (Ratcliffe, 2016; Clark, 2019). This iterative assessment ensures the intelligence remains relevant and aligned with user needs (Khalifa & Hardyns, 2024). Regular evaluation of intelligence outputs is crucial for meeting evolving demands. The UNODC (2011) highlights that merely collecting information is insufficient; it must undergo thorough examination to ensure reliability before being shared with the LEAs. The quality of intelligence depends on the credibility of sources and the thoroughness of data analysis (Irwin & Mandel, 2019). If intelligence outputs lack value, it is essential to communicate these deficiencies to producers for necessary improvements (Gibbs, McGarrell & Sullivan, 2015; Khalifa & Hardyns, 2024). Lowenthal (2022) contends that processes for collecting and analysing data must be ongoing and iterative. The intelligence required for internal processes differs from that needed for broader criminal investigations (Phythian, 2013). Regular meetings among operational stakeholders are recommended to enhance intelligence quality (Racliffe, 2016). By analysing data, Anti-corruption agencies can gain insights into the Limpopo traffic police's activities, uncover connections among incidents and officers, and identify systemic issues that may need targeted intervention, strengthening the LEAs' integrity and effectiveness.

Data presentations, analysis and discussion of study findings

To evaluate the use of the ILP framework to combat traffic police corruption in Limpopo Province, the participants with extensive experience and knowledge regarding preventing corruption by traffic police officers were interviewed. Specifically, the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety managers were chosen to respond to the questions designed for the study's aim. The participants were asked the following question in response to using the ILP framework.

Which policing philosophies are used to combat traffic police corruption? This question was posed to gain a deeper understanding of the specific policing strategies and approaches employed by the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety in their efforts to combat corruption of traffic police officers.

...In response, the following verbatim expressions emerged:

“We often use problem-oriented approach and intelligence-led policing, which provides us with appropriate information required to apprehend traffic officers who normally take bribes from the motorists and neglect their duties. These two policing approaches help accomplish our mission by

arresting the suspects through our joint operations, which are normally initiated after a complaint has been made about officers taking bribes” P9.

“What we normally do is ensure that the Anti-corruption Unit, together with other LEAs responsible for fighting corruption, collects as much information as possible regarding the suspected officers. This data is then analysed through the use of technology to understand how these corrupt officers operated before going after them”. P5.

The study's findings underscore the use of the ILP framework as a vital strategy in combating corruption among traffic police officers. In addition, this innovative approach utilises advanced data analysis techniques and rigorous intelligence-gathering processes to identify and examine patterns of corrupt behaviour within law enforcement, allowing agencies to address areas of concern before they escalate proactively. Ratcliffe (2016) argued that the ILP framework transcends a mere tactical initiative; it signifies a fundamental transformation in crafting a strategic policing mission centred around criminal intelligence. This framework empowers police departments to make informed decisions regarding resource allocation, enhancing their capacity to detect and prevent police corruption, particularly in traffic enforcement contexts. Additionally, the ILP framework expanded to encompass problem-oriented policing principles, evolving it into a business model and managerial philosophy. This evolution incorporates data analysis and crime intelligence to enhance crime prevention, disruption, and reduction by applying strategic management and effective enforcement strategies focused on serious and prolific offenders (Ratcliffe, 2016).

Furthermore, this question was also posed to the selected participants: *“What measures/strategies are in place to prevent corruption among traffic police in Limpopo Province?”* This question was designed to develop a specific study theme, which was broken down into two sub-themes. This strategic division was implemented to enrich the study's analysis and facilitate a more nuanced understanding of the insights gathered. By dissecting the central theme into these sub-themes, the researcher aimed to explore various dimensions and perspectives, ultimately leading to a more thorough examination of the measures/strategies that are in place to prevent corruption among traffic police in Limpopo Province.

Most participants highlighted the critical role of anti-fraud policies and procedures in curbing corruption among traffic police. These strategies encompass various measures to identify, prevent, and mitigate fraudulent practices. The study emphasises a persistent dedication to tackling widespread corruption, reflecting the Department of Transport and Community Safety's effective implementation of anti-fraud and corruption protocols aimed at addressing misconduct by traffic police officers. Despite the ongoing issues with corruption among these officers, the interviewed manager expressed confidence in the effectiveness of these policies and procedures.

To further support this finding, the following verbatim excerpts carefully showcase the participants' views on the diverse strategies employed to tackle the widespread issue of corruption within traffic police operations. These responses not only detail the specific measures undertaken but also offer insights into the perceived effectiveness and challenges associated with these strategies, as expressed by the participants... ..

“We are still to see the fruits because when you close the tap, another one opens, so I can say partially that the framework yields positive results; however, there are cases of fraud and corruption that must be dealt with every year. We have policies for fraud and Anti-corruption, which are normally distributed to our officers so that they can familiarise themselves with such policies and procedures when doing their jobs” P2.

“The government has various laws or acts and Anti-corruption agencies in place to combat traffic police corruption. Such acts include Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activity [Act no: 12 of 2004] (PRECCA), National Traffic Anti-corruption Units (NACS), Hawks and more. However, these legal frameworks and Anti-corruption agencies need to be effective to combat traffic police corruption successfully.” P7

“We have fraud and Anti-corruption policies, which are clearly distributed to our employees so that they can align with these policies.” P4

This study has discovered effective policies and legal frameworks for deterring fraudulent activities, particularly concerning persistent corrupt practices among traffic police officers. Notably, the Department of Traffic and Community Safety has implemented policies and procedures to address corruption despite constantly evolving fraudulent tactics. These results demonstrate that the department has implemented robust measures to address these problems. The Limpopo Traffic Department's policies and procedures play a crucial role in maintaining the credibility and dependability of traffic law enforcement. Miller (2016) highlighted that anti-corruption tactics such as integrity testing and policies that minimise opportunities for misconduct should be implemented to tackle corruption. Using evidence-based strategies and advanced surveillance techniques, ILP aims to reduce criminal activities while promoting strategic interactions between the LEAs and their communities (Ratcliffe & Guidetti, 2008).

In addressing the measures and strategies implemented to combat corruption among traffic police in Limpopo Province, the study revealed that the government has established a comprehensive Joint Anti-Corruption Programme. This initiative is specifically designed to investigate allegations of corrupt practices among traffic police officers. The programme involves a collaborative effort among various law enforcement agencies and oversight bodies, tasked with gathering intelligence, monitoring activities, and collecting evidence against suspected officers engaged in unethical behaviour.

Joint anti-corruption operations

During the interview, the manager was asked about fraud and corruption within the Limpopo Province traffic police. The manager provided valuable insights on the measures and strategies employed to combat corruption, including anti-corruption joint operations. These operations involve collaboration between the LEAs and external entities to identify and apprehend officers engaged in illicit activities effectively. The following response is a verbatim representation of the participant's remarks.

“There are joint operations that are run once or twice a year, but i feel that if those joint operations. For example, between the department and the RTMC can be run on a frequent basis, which can reduce corruption within traffic officials. Fraud also to be conducting those ad hoc surveillance when roadblocks are conducted on a regular basis that will help big time combat corruption.” P14

“To fight traffic police corruption, we are working with various anti-corruption agencies such as the ... HAWKS and Anti-Corruption Unit and other units. It is also important to mention that this initiative has yielded positive results in which most traffic police officers were arrested for various corruption charges since 2016.” P27.

“The joint Anti-Corruption Agencies have proven to be a successful strategy that operates special investigations of traffic police corruption”. P16.

This study reveals the efficacy of collaborative efforts and the pooling of resources and expertise in joint operations, which has been demonstrated in targeting high-risk areas, uncovering corrupt officials, and gathering essential evidence for successful prosecution. Moreover, joint operations play a pivotal role in enforcing accountability among traffic police officers, who realise that their actions are subject to scrutiny. Such operations send a powerful message to the public that corruption will not be tolerated, thus instilling confidence in the legal system. The collective efforts of different agencies and the utilisation of shared resources have made joint operations an effective means of combating corruption and improving the efficiency of law enforcement. Pereira, Lehmann, Roth and Attisso (2012) support the finding that a joint operation called Siyabangena, involving the Hawks' Serious Corruption Investigation, Team Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and Road Traffic Management Committee RTMC, focused on combating corrupt traffic officials in 2017. This operation successfully captured 13 traffic officials stationed in *Bolobedu* and *Tzaneen*. They were caught accepting gratification ranging

from R100 to R2,000 from motorists who violated the Road Traffic Act, including exceeding the speed limit (Grobler, 2020). Also, the significance of these agencies collaborating impartially is mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. Nkoma (2019) stressed that to address corruption within the traffic police force, anti-corruption agencies such as Hawks and the National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit (NTACU) must effectively exercise strategic control. By implementing these programmes, integrity and ethical behaviour can be promoted while prioritising collective well-being. The cooperation between these agencies demonstrates their commitment to combat corruption more engagingly and effectively.

Efforts made to involve the community to prevent corruption by traffic police officers

This theme focuses on the initiatives undertaken by the traffic police to engage the community in the fight against corruption. Given that motorists have the most immediate interactions with traffic police officers on the roads, it is crucial to understand the efforts made to involve the community in combating corruption within the traffic police force.

In response to this question: *“What efforts are being made to actively involve the community in preventing corruption among traffic police in Limpopo Province?”* The key participants, specifically managers from the Department of Transport and Community Safety, provided valuable insights. They detailed various proactive initiatives to foster transparency and accountability within the traffic enforcement system. These initiatives include community outreach programs, educational workshops on citizens' rights, and the establishment of reporting mechanisms that empower residents to report any instances of corruption. Furthermore, the managers emphasised the importance of collaboration with local organisations and stakeholders to create a united front against corruption, strengthening community trust and involvement in traffic policing efforts. The findings also indicated that the Department of Transportation and Community Safety rarely participates in radio interviews that specifically address the prevention of corruption among traffic police officers. This lack of communication may hinder efforts to raise public awareness and educate citizens about combating corruption within the traffic police force. By underutilising this platform, the department risks missing an adequate opportunity to promote transparency and strengthen trust between law enforcement and the community. The Manager's verbatim quotations are provided herewith to support this observation further.

“In response to your question, the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Transport and Community Safety plays a crucial role in combating corruption within the Limpopo Traffic Police Department. The MEC occasionally visits radio and television stations to address the community directly, urging citizens not to be tempted to pay bribes to traffic police officers. I think the MEC office is committed to fostering a culture of lawlessness and holding corrupt individuals accountable. The MEC also encourages people to report corruption cases.” P7.

“We sometimes do campaigns, but our main platform for displaying or communicating our message to the community is through the Internet, where people can visit our websites to learn more about our campaigns.” P5.

“We do not do community campaigns ourselves because such engagements are done by the MEC office for Transport and Community Safety. However, the MEC do preach the gospel, encouraging the community members not to give traffic to police officers on the radio and television. As we know the MEC is always busy, and this limits the number of her visits to the radios and TVs to preach this gospel.” P1.

This study further revealed that the MEC Department of Transportation and Community Safety rarely conducts radio or television campaigns, representing a significant gap in the MEC's public information and communication strategy. By having limited campaigns, the department is missing a valuable opportunity to disseminate vital information and engage with the public about preventing traffic police corruption. This highlights the need for improvement in the MEC office and prompts

proactive steps to improve community engagement in traffic police prevention efforts. This resonates with the verbatim expressions shared by one of the participants of this study.

“Corruption by traffic officers can be combated through a comprehensive overhaul of the institution’s management structures and a transformation of its organisational culture. Also, implementing targeted measures that foster integrity at every level of the traffic institution can enhance mechanisms for accountability, and by actively engaging with the community, we can create a more trustworthy and responsive law enforcement agency. Most importantly, collaborating and engaging the community through various campaigns can help in the fight against traffic police corruption. These efforts will ensure that all members of the police force are held to the highest standards, promoting a culture of transparency and mutual respect between the police and the communities they serve.” P33.

In support of this finding, the ILP framework places significant emphasis on fostering collaboration and engagement with community members. Local citizens often possess invaluable insights and knowledge regarding criminal activities plaguing their neighbourhoods. This grassroots perspective is crucial, as residents can provide law enforcement with intelligence that may not be accessible through traditional investigative means. By building trust and maintaining open lines of communication with community members, LEAs can significantly enhance their situational awareness. This, in turn, facilitates the development of more effective and targeted strategies for crime prevention that are informed by real-world conditions and concerns. Furthermore, the ILP framework underscores the essential need to cultivate robust partnerships with community stakeholders and other LEAs. These inter-agency alliances are vital for the seamless exchange of intelligence and best practices, which can lead to an accelerated response to emerging crime trends. Collaborative efforts enhance the capacity of law enforcement entities to pool resources, share information on criminal patterns, and jointly strategize on initiatives to reduce crime rates. Ultimately, such comprehensive collaborations contribute to a cohesive and strategic approach in combating crime, fostering a safer environment for all community members while empowering them to take an active role in safeguarding their neighbourhoods (Abaho, 2023; Amos, Tanimu Mahmoud & Idris, 2022).

Conclusion and recommendations

It is concluded that addressing traffic police corruption requires comprehensive strategies that promote integrity, transparency, and accountability within law enforcement. Key measures include fostering a culture of integrity through ethics training and internal oversight, such as body-worn cameras and regular audits, which enhance transparency and deter corrupt practices. Additionally, fair pay and career advancement opportunities can reduce the temptation for corrupt activities. Public administration reforms, including regular audits of traffic police operations and encouraging the reporting of misconduct, are vital for enhancing accountability (Singh, 2019). Raising public awareness about the impacts of corruption can foster civic responsibility and encourage reporting. Engaging communities through outreach and feedback mechanisms can build trust between law enforcement and the public, promoting cooperation in combating corruption. Effective anti-corruption measures also rely on monitoring agents' behaviour (Teixeira & Spinelli, 2024). For recommendations, this study presents the following aspects of consideration by all relevant stakeholders:

Collaboration and coordination of various Anti-corruption Agencies

Effective collaboration among Anti-corruption Agencies is crucial for enhancing global governance integrity and transparency. In a world where corruption threatens societal foundations, these agencies must align their objectives, pool resources, and synchronise actions to combat corruption effectively. Each agency’s unique expertise contributes to a comprehensive approach vital for identifying, investigating, and prosecuting corrupt practices. Regular communication and joint operations enable these agencies to dismantle complex corruption networks that may evade scrutiny when working in isolation. Sharing critical intelligence and best practices boosts the efficiency of anti-corruption initiatives, fostering a coordinated effort that adapts to evolving tactics. This unified approach enhances

accountability and ensures consistent enforcement across sectors, which is essential for the legitimacy of governance systems. By presenting a consolidated front against corruption, these agencies reinforce public trust and demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical standards and transparency. This solidarity improves their effectiveness and cultivates an environment where accountability and transparency are the norms, supporting sustainable development and good governance.

Operational and strategic intelligence

Operational and strategic intelligence play crucial roles in reducing corruption among traffic police officers. These frameworks enable law enforcement to analyse officer behaviours systematically, identifying potential misconduct. Operational intelligence allows for real-time monitoring and quick responses, while strategic intelligence reveals long-term systemic patterns. By combining both, agencies can develop targeted training, strengthen whistleblower protections, and enhance transparency in traffic enforcement. Proactively using these intelligence methods deters corruption and builds public trust. Monitoring interactions between traffic officers and motorists improves safety and transparency, utilising advanced surveillance technologies to identify irregularities. This initiative promotes adherence to legal standards and fosters accountability. Collecting and analysing data for operational and strategic intelligence is vital for ensuring transparency in traffic enforcement. A robust data collection system provides insights into misconduct patterns and helps curb corruption among officers, promoting a culture of integrity. Collaboration among stakeholders is essential for combating corruption. Sharing intelligence with anti-corruption agencies strengthens investigations and enforcement actions, fostering transparency and trust. Joint anti-corruption operations targeting officers and motorists are necessary to deter bribery, promote integrity, and restore public confidence in traffic management.

Enhanced community engagement

Enhancing community engagement is essential in combating corruption among traffic officers. By fostering collaboration between law enforcement and the public, initiatives such as regular community meetings, public workshops on ethical conduct, and digital platforms for anonymous reporting can promote transparency and accountability. This collaboration can lead to fair enforcement of traffic regulations and safer roadways. Effective awareness campaigns by utilising radio, television, and social media can inform the public about the impacts of corruption. Radio can reach diverse audiences, while TV can present engaging narratives, and social media can connect with younger generations, encouraging public discourse. Combining traditional and digital media can create a strong campaign that educates citizens and promotes integrity in traffic enforcement. Platforms that allow individuals to report corruption can foster transparency and accountability, enhancing public trust in law enforcement. A newly launched initiative uses technology to empower citizens through user-friendly reporting channels, enabling anonymous submissions of evidence related to traffic police misconduct. This community-driven approach encourages vigilance and responsibility, helping to identify corruption patterns and improve the integrity of law enforcement. Overall, these efforts aim to restore trust and ensure fair traffic policing in the community.

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