

Transito: The Truth Behind the Big-Money Robberies by Hennie Lochner and Piet van Staden

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Although this publication is primarily aimed at the South African Police Service, it would also serve as a source of knowledge to criminal justice practitioners as well as criminologists and the private security industry. The manuscript provides insight into critically neglected investigation focus areas of Cash - in -transit (CIT) robbery groups, selection of CIT targets, planning and execution of CIT robberies, how these robbers make their escape, how the stolen money is spent and the use of violence and their disregard for human life.

This book has 20 Chapters, which analyses selected issues such as violence, modus operandi, crime, robbers, planning, homing in, risk, key to CIT heist, weapons, guards, sangomas, HiTech approach, hitting the target, time factor, escape, money, recognising the police, defeating the ends of justice, getting caught and advice from the robbers. The selected issues are based on the potential for actionable crime intelligence to combat CIT robberies. There appears to be a logical progression in the above chapters. The author uses qualitative interviews and literature to obtain a clear understanding of the truth behind the big-money robberies.

In this manuscript the authors relate specifically to CIT robberies within the South African context. Cash- in- transit robbery is cited as one of the crimes listed among the seven categories under robbery with aggravating circumstances. The author avers that the target sample of 21 participants who made up 75% of all convicted CIT robbers in South Africa, were interviewed in a privatised correctional facility. One in three of these robbers were killers. All these CIT robbers are driven by greed for large amounts of money which involves billions of rands. They also kill fellow robbers who turn against them as informers. The author discusses how CIT robberies are committed and how it benefits them and their families. Many CIT robbers have criminal records of violent



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crimes before they become involved in CIT robberies. Quick police action with forensic support assists investigators in getting these robbers arrested, convicted and sentenced for various crimes. Pre, concurrent and post-planning by the mastermind of the CIT syndicate yields success in CIT robberies. The robbers evaluate the preparedness of the security guards in advance. The skills of the CIT robbers determine the size of their group. Stolen vehicles are used as getaway vehicles during the CIT robbery.

This book brings out the level of violence used by the CIT robbers, by providing a case study perspective of violent CIT robberies. The robbers commit violent acts to build a profile of fame and popularity among their peers. Their reasons for firing a high calibre arm at a robbery scene is to intimidate the security guards, who they will not hesitate to shoot to kill. The discussion on the modus operandi of CIT robbers is aligned to the existing body of knowledge of other researchers and to 200 CIT robbers in South Africa.

The author highlights roles of sangomas and women as accomplices to CIT robberies. The CIT robbers take into consideration how they approach the target, the time factor to complete the robbery and get away from the scene. The chapter on 'High Tech' crime provides insight on investigative methodology used to solve CIT robberies. It is also clear in this chapter that the robbers take measures to mitigate against such investigative methods. Bribery and corruption of officials prevent CIT robbers from being caught.

Although this book is not designed as a textbook, the research methodology used, the choice of clear language and the clarity of explanation of the subject matter lends itself for practical reading. Within this context, it provides good knowledge and skills which can be incorporated into any form of teaching and learning in Policing, Criminology and Security Risk Management.

This manuscript provides a readable and much needed critical look at some of the investigative methodologies that can be used to successfully investigate CIT robberies until its conclusion in a court of law. However, pages 153 to 157 relating to the list of references and the Index is not included in the book. This appears to be a shortcoming for academic reading.