

An evaluation of the Second-Hand Goods Act (Act, 6 of 2009): analysis of its impact in reducing property crimes in Gauteng

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ABSTRACT: This article presents the findings of a study to investigate the implementation of the Second-Hand Goods Act (SHGA) within a Gauteng provincial context, focusing on the perspectives of key stakeholders in the second-hand goods market. Drawing from the findings of the research study which was conducted by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety in the 2024/2025 financial year, this article qualitatively explores different ways in which second-hand goods practitioners and law enforcement authorities conceptualise and experience the implementation of the SHGA (GDCS, 2024). Qualitative research methods were instrumental in uncovering the complex dynamics that both enable and constrain the effective regulation of the second-hand market, particularly in relation to the trade of stolen goods (GDCS, 2024). A purposive maximum variation sampling strategy was utilised to select twenty-seven participants for one-on-one interviews (GDCS, 2024). Moreover, the research teams employed an interactive data analytic strategy that comprises of seven stages of categorisation, these stages include familiarisation, condensation, comparison, grouping, articulating, labelling and contrasting (McCosker, Barnard and Gerber, 2004). Findings contribute to a deeper understanding of factors influencing the SHGA's application and highlight areas for strengthening its enforcement within legitimate second-hand dealer networks (GDCS, 2024).

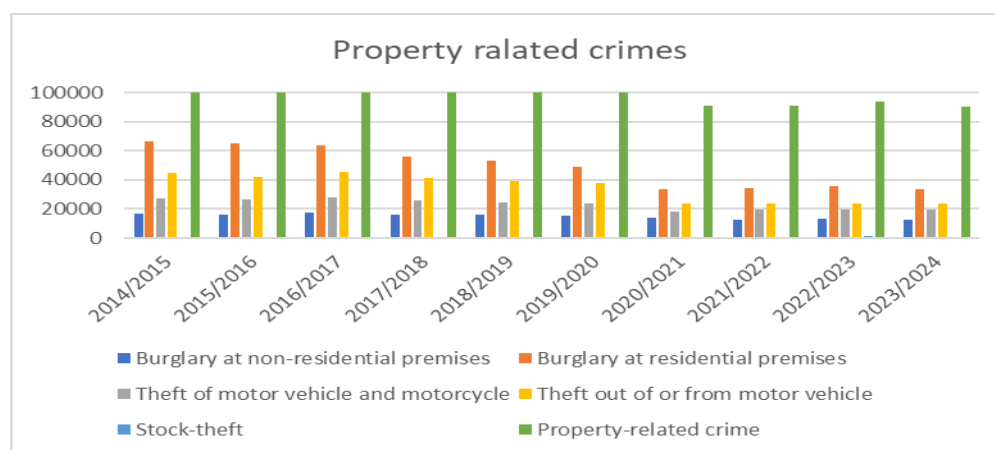
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I. INTRODUCTION

Recent scholarly literature has increasingly underscored crime as a persistent challenge in South Africa's post-apartheid era (Shaw, 1996; Adam, 2021). A growing body of research attributes the consistently high levels of crime to various socio-economic determinants (Siteleki, Ballard, & Mosselson, 2017). According to the South African Police Service (SAPS), property-related offences represent a substantial proportion of all reported crimes, as reflected in the 2023/2024 annual crime statistics (SAPS, 2024). The chart below illustrates the extent of Gauteng's contribution to property-related crimes recorded nationally over a ten-year period, spanning from 2014/2015 to 2023/2024.



Source: SAPS 2024 Figure 1: Property-related crimes for a ten-year period (2014-2024)

Figure one presents a longitudinal overview of property-related crimes in Gauteng between the 2014/2015 and 2023/2024 financial years, illustrating a relatively stable yet persistently high incidence of such offences, despite ongoing crime prevention and law enforcement efforts (SAPS, 2024; GDCS, 2022). The data reveals a gradual overall decline in reported property-related crimes, with a 27.3% reduction from 16,983 cases in 2014/2015 to 12,355 cases in 2023/2024 (SAPS, 2024). Notably, burglary at residential premises experienced a cumulative decrease, with 66,172 incidents recorded in 2014/2015 dropping to 33,815 in 2020/2021 an average annual decline of approximately 4,700 cases. However, the trend slightly reversed in the following years, with an increase to 35,899 in 2022/2023, before declining again to 33,793 in 2023/2024 (SAPS, 2024).

Despite the observed reductions, Gauteng continues to register high levels of property-related crimes (GDCS, 2024; GDCS, 2022). Research attributes part of this phenomenon to the circulation of stolen goods within the second-hand market (SAPS, 2012; Freiberg, 1997). In an effort to circumvent this phenomenon, globally several jurisdictions have responded by implementing legal frameworks to regulate the trade of Second-Hand Goods (D'Este, 2014; Freiberg, 1997). In South Africa, this effort culminated in the enactment of the Second Hand Goods Act 6 of 2009 (SHGA), following a lengthy legislative process that began in the mid-1990s (Hiropoulos & Porter, 2014). The SHGA aims to formalise the sector by mandating the registration of dealers and recyclers, curbing the sale of stolen properties, and promoting ethical standards particularly relevant in a socio-economic context where the second-hand market functions as a survival mechanism for many post-apartheid citizens (Bhorat et al., 2017).

This article aims to present the findings of the study to assess the effectiveness of the SHGA in curbing the trade of stolen goods within Gauteng's second-hand market. Based on the GDCS 2024/2025 study on the SHGA, this article evaluates the Act's effectiveness in aiding law enforcement and dealers to trace stolen goods through the second-hand market.

II.BACKGROUND

The Second-Hand Goods trade is one of the oldest human enterprises that evolved throughout the ages (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2000). A broad range of literature posits that the indigenous people of Africa practiced this trade before the Western European influence arrived on the continent (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2000). The evolution of the economy and the sophistication of markets enabled the emergence of criminal elements that infiltrated the second-hand industry (Freiberg, 1997). As indicated in the preceding section, this prompted a need to regulate this industry to combat the illicit trade of stolen and counterfeit goods (Freiberg, 1997; D'este, 2014). The development of the regulatory framework for the second-hand industry in South Africa traces its roots from the promulgation of the SHGA 10 of 1895 of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal's scrap metal statute titled "Act to Regulate the Business of Dealers in Old Metals Act 11 of 1907" (SAPS, 2012). The aforementioned pieces of legislation were further replaced by the SHGA 23 of 1955 (SAPS, 2012).

This legislation sought to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the registration of all businesses involved in the trade of Second-Hand Goods in the then newly established Union of South Africa (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2000). The SHGA, 23 of 1955 did not compel dealers to verify the origin of the goods they are acquiring, rather it emphasised the need to keep records of all transactions for three years (Second Hand Goods Act, 23 of 1955). The post-1994 era brought about several legislative changes that sought to address the transitional challenges faced by South Africa in the mid-1990s (Hiropoulos and Porter, 2014; Shaw, 1996; Rauch, 2001). Hiropoulos and Porter (2014) as well as Adam (2021) note that the review of the SHGA (Act, 23 of 1955) sought to address the aforementioned gaps with the intention of providing a comprehensive regulatory framework to govern the whole second-hand industry in the new dispensation. In an attempt to fortify the government's intentions of providing a comprehensive legislative framework to control all aspects of the Second-Hand Goods market, the government engaged in a number of consultative exercises to ensure inclusivity (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2000; Mahamba, Mofokeng, Mabunda, Aphane and Kockott, 2021).

The proposed amendments to the regulations of the SHGA (Act, 6 of 2009) sought to strengthen the regulations around the trade of metal waste, scrap metal and semi-finished metal products (Department of Trade Industry and Competition, 2022). These regulations form part of a broader programme of action intended to curb infrastructure damage in South Africa (Department of Trade Industry and Competition, 2022). The purpose of the draft amendment is to:

- Address gaps in the enforcement of scrap metal seller registration requirements,
- Extend the registration requirements to include the buyers and sellers of semi-finished metal products,

- Introduce more comprehensive reporting obligations, and
- To restrict trade in scrap copper and semi-finished copper products to registered buyers and sellers (Department of Trade Industry and Competition, 2022). These amendments came at a time when South Africa is battling with the theft of copper cables which adversely affect economic activities, particularly in Gauteng (Pretorius, 2012; Pretorius & Prinsloo 2014).

III. Theoretical Framework

This article employs Routine Activity Theory (RAT), originally developed by Cohen and Felson (1979), as the theoretical framework through which to assess the effectiveness of the SHGA (Act 6 of 2009) in reducing property crimes in Gauteng. RAT offers a situational explanation of crime, positing that criminal events occur when three essential elements converge in time and space: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian (Felson, 2006). The theory suggests that routine patterns of daily life, such as work, travel, and consumption structure opportunities for these elements to intersect. Therefore, any change in routine activities or social environments can directly influence crime rates.

The regulation of second-hand markets through legislative interventions such as the SHGA can be understood within this framework (GDCS, 2024). The Act aims to disrupt the alignment of RAT's core components by introducing legal and procedural barriers to the resale of stolen goods (Felson, 2006). These include registration of dealers, detailed record-keeping, and the requirement for proof of ownership measures that collectively increase guardianship and reduce target suitability (GDCS, 2024). By altering the everyday routines that govern how stolen property enters the market, the Act seeks to limit offenders' access to easy, low-risk opportunities for profit (GDCS, 2024). A key element of RAT in the context of this study is the concept of target value, which reflects how offenders perceive the desirability of potential targets (Felson, 2006). Items commonly traded in the second-hand markets such as electronics, tools and jewellery often possess high target value due to their portability, resale potential and difficulty in tracing (GDCS, 2024). According to Felson (2000), offenders assess the attractiveness of targets based on their goals and the situational ease of acquisition and escape. Therefore, the implementation of regulatory mechanisms that make the exchange of these goods more difficult such as transaction records and compliance checks can directly diminish their appeal, increase the perceived risk and reduce their value from the offender's perspective (Felson, 2000, as cited in Dliwako et al., 2025).

RAT also foregrounds the importance of temporal and spatial dynamics in shaping crime opportunities (Felson, 2000). Criminal incidents are more likely when everyday routines inadvertently bring together a motivated offender and a vulnerable target in the absence of sufficient protection or oversight (Felson, 2000). The unregulated or loosely monitored Second-Hand Goods sector historically offered such an environment characterised by limited surveillance, anonymous transactions, and minimal accountability (GDCS, 2024). In response, the SHGA introduces structural controls aimed at enhancing situational guardianship (GDCS, 2024). Miro (2014, as cited in Dliwako et al., 2025) supports this approach, suggesting that crime prevention strategies should focus on altering routine patterns, improving environmental controls, and reducing the desirability of criminal opportunities.

From a theoretical perspective, RAT redirects attention from the psychological traits of offenders to the structural and situational factors that facilitate criminal events (Felson, 2000). This shift is particularly relevant in evaluating legislation such as the SHGA, which is not aimed at changing offender intent but rather at reshaping the environments in which property crime occurs (Felson, 2000). By examining how the Act modifies the routine interaction between offenders, targets, and guardians, this article assesses whether the policy has effectively disrupted the conditions that typically facilitate property crime in Gauteng (Felson, 2000). Ultimately, RAT provides a robust analytical foundation for understanding and evaluating crime prevention measures (Felson, 2000). In the case of the SHGA, RAT clarifies how specific regulatory interventions may reduce opportunities for property offences by altering the situational contexts in which these crimes are most likely to occur (Felson, 2000). This theoretical alignment enhances the broader understanding of how legislation can be used not only as a punitive measure but also as a proactive tool for crime disruption and prevention (Felson, 2000).

IV.METHODOLOGY

The data for this article is obtained from a study that was conducted by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety (GDCS) in the 2024/2025 financial year "to assess the application of the Second-Hand Good (Act 6 of 2009)" (GDCS, 2024). The aforementioned study utilized a phenomenographic research approach and applied qualitative methods to gather primary data (Marton, 1981; Marton, 1986; Gill, 2020). This culminated in

the selection of 27 participants for one-on-one interviews through the “purposive maximum variation sampling strategy” (Chaheenand Pradhan, 2019). The sampled participants included Designated Second-hand Goods Officers (DSO), Firearm, Liquor and Second-Hand Goods (FLASH) commanders from SAPS, Second-Hand Goods dealers or pawnshops and security practitioners from Eskom and City Power (GDCS, 2024). The research team also conducted participatory observation sessions during visits at different second-hand dealers’ premises in the Honeydew, Johannesburg Central and Lyttleton policing precincts (GDCS, 2024). Moreover, the research team employed an interactive data analytic strategy that comprise of seven stages of categorisation, these stages included familiarisation, condensation, comparison, grouping, articulating, labelling and contrasting (McCosker, Barnard and Gerber, 2004).

V.FINDINGS

This section reflects the key characteristics of the evidence which was obtained during the qualitative data collection phase. This study examined the application of the SHGA in the City Region by collecting both primary and secondary data. It is equally imperative that the presentation of findings should be reflective of this phenomenon. It is within this context that this section addresses the following aspects:

- The procedure for obtaining a dealer's permit as outlined in the Act,
- The procedures employed to conduct inspections of the business premises of second-hand dealers and recyclers,
- Challenges that hinder the effective implementation of the SHGA, particularly in addressing the sale of stolen goods in the City Region, and
- Suggested measures to tighten the current regulations to prohibit the sale of stolen goods in the province.

5.1.The application process for a second-hand dealer license

Section one (1) of the SHGA stipulates that any juristic or natural person that trades in Second-Hand Goods in the republic must register as a dealer with the SAPS. National Instruction (NI) 2 of 2016 sets out the procedure that ought to be followed by SAPS in processing the application for a Second-Hand Goods dealer license.

5.2.Submission of the SAPS 601 dealer license application form (SAPS 601)

A Second-Hand Goods dealer license application must be submitted in a SAPS 601 form at the local police station where the business is located, in accordance with the SAPS NI 2 of (2016) (SAPS, 2016). This includes all potential entities that wish to establish businesses trading in Second-Hand Goods. They include auctioneers, general dealers, jewelers, motor vehicles, scrap metal dealers and recyclers (NI, 2 of 2016). An application for registration must be made to the National Commissioner and must be accompanied by the prescribed documents (Benson, 2016). When the participants were requested to list required documents which must be attached to the SAPS 601 permit as contemplated in the Act, they indicated that all applicants need to provide the following:

- Certified Copy of any certificate or permit issued in terms of other legislation regulating such business or industry (zoning certificate, customs control, revenue, international trade, fire safety, communications, occupational health and safety, waste management or environmental management) to mention a few,
- Proof of business bank account issued by the banking institution,
- Proof of address that includes certified copy of the utility bill or lease agreement,
- A basic floor plan of the premises where the applicant intends to conduct business,
- Certified copy of certificate of registration as a Second-Hand Goods Scrap Metal Dealer (only applicable on an application to be registered as a recycler),
- Certified copy of certificate of registration as a Dealer or Recycler if applicant is already registered to trade/recycle on the different premises from the one specified in the application being submitted,
- Certified copy of an Accredited Dealers' Association Membership Certificate,
- Certified copy of the appointment letter of the manager or managers (where applicable),
- Any other administrative documents might be necessary in defining the nature of the operations of the business in question, and
- A certified copy of an official RSA Identity Document/s (or passports if non-South African citizens) of all persons who will be involved in the day-to-day management of the business.

5.3.Impact on local law enforcement and justice systems

The participants further stipulated that in instances where an applicant is a non-citizen of South Africa, a permanent residence permit must be provided to enable processing of the application. Moreover, it is worth highlighting that the participants indicated the duration of the dealer licences differs remarkably. The data at our disposal indicates that non-South African citizens’ permits must be renewed on an annual basis, whereas South African citizens’ licenses are reviewed every five years. Additionally, according to NI 2 of 2016, the DSO is obligated to advise and ensure all relevant information is brought to the attention of the applicant (NI, 2 of

2016). The participants noted that this includes among others, ensuring that applicants are aware of the required documentation to support the registration process, obligations and rights of the second-hand goods and recyclers licenses. Subsequently, upon the receipt of SAPS 601 the DSO needs to ensure that the application is registered in a SAPS 603 register and the Notice of receipt (SAPS 601 C) is issued to the applicant (NI, 2 of 2016). Finally, the participants also indicated that the DSO needs to create a Z20 file to ensure proper record keeping of all data pertaining to the dealer in question.

5.4.Evaluation of the second-hand dealer license application (SAPS 601)

In addition to the administrative obligation confirmed to the DSO contemplated in the Act, the DSOs are required to verify all information included in the application (NI, 2 of 2016, SHGA, 6 of 2009; NI, 1 of 2012). This entails the verification of all documents enclosed in the application and profiling of the applicant/s (NI, 2 of 2016).

a) Verification process

The participants signalled that their initial task in verifying the applications of the second-hand dealers permits incorporates certifying the validity of all documentation as well as their compliance with the qualification standards stipulated in section 14 of the Act. This includes but is not limited to:

- Verification of the location or address of the applicant's business premises,
- Financial status of the applicant as defined by Regulation 63a which stipulates that the prospective licensee may not be undergoing sequestration or declared insolvent,
- The prospective licensee is within the legal age at the time of submitting the application,
- The applicant possesses proper citizenship documentation, and
- The prospective licensee is not declared incompetent by any law to run any business in the republic particularly dealing with Second-Hand Goods.

In addition, some of the participants stated that in an attempt to fast track the process of profiling applicants, they engage the Crime Information Management and Analysis Centre (CIMAC) at the police station to obtain information of the prospective licensees. In essence, the participants posit that criminal records are some of the critical elements in determining the outcome of the application for a second-hand goods dealer licence. As the DSOs stated criminal records assist them in providing a justification for accepting or rejecting the application for a second-hand dealer permit. Therefore, the DSOs noted that in terms of their delegated responsibilities in the Act, they are obligated to exercise fairness to prevent unnecessary civil claims against SAPS. One of the participants further indicated that both the training manuals and NI 2 of 2016 emphasise the Act cannot be used as a punitive tool to inflict unjust hardship on the prospective Second-Hand Goods dealers or recyclers.

b) Profiling of the applicant

Both the Act and the National Instruction emphasise that the DSOs need to obtain the criminal records of the applicants to rule out the disqualification conditions contemplated in Section 14 (1) and (2) of the SHGA (Act, 6 of 2009). According to the participants all applicants need to provide the SAPS with a set of fingerprints to be conveyed to the Local Criminal Record Centre (LCRC). The participants highlighted that the key interest in this regard is to establish whether the potential licensees may have been convicted of any criminal offence that includes dishonesty as an element of crime such as fraud, theft and corruption. In contrast, it is also noteworthy that participants further postulated that there are some criminal offences that may not prohibit the approval of the second-hand goods dealer permit. These offences subsume among others, assault and traffic violations.

5.5.Outcome

As reflected in section 5.2.1, the DSOs are obliged to create an official file (Z20) for the applicant to ensure proper record keeping of the paper trail that involves the prospective dealer. According to the participants this file should store all correspondence between the SAPS and the dealer in question. In order to facilitate the decision making process by the relevant authorities in the SAPS, the DSOs highlighted that they use the outcomes of the evaluation phase to propose a suitable outcome. According to the participants, the motivation to either approve or reject the application is filed together with all other documentation from the applicant in the Z20 file and forwarded to the relevant authority for decision making. It is also worth highlighting that the research team established that the decision to grant a permit for a general second-hand dealer rests with the Station Commander while the recycler licence is determined by the District Commissioner. They include the approval or rejection of the application to register as a second-hand goods dealer or recycler.

a) Approval

In the event where an application is successful, the participants noted that the DSO is responsible for issuing SAPS 601A (dealer licence and recycler) to the applicant and ensuring the applicant signs the SAPS 603

register. One of the participants indicated this is critical in keeping a record for future inspections at the dealers premises given the fact that all secondhand dealers and recyclers are required to always display the certificate (NI, 2 of 2016).

b) Rejection

In terms of the Act, SAPS needs to provide the applicant with a notice to reject the application (SAPS 608A). According to participants the said notice must clearly stipulate the reasons why the application ought to be rejected and the applicant must be given 30 days to respond. The National Instruction in this regard emphatically defines dispute resolution procedures that ought to be followed in managing the rejection process (NI, 2 of 2016).

5.6. Inspection of second-hand dealer premises

The purpose of the inspection is to ascertain whether the dealer complies with the relevant provisions of the Act (SAPS, 2016). During the business operating hours of the Second-Hand Goods dealer/recycler in question, a police official may in terms of Section 28 of the Act visit the business premises of any registered entity to conduct inspection (SAPS, 2016). The Act further stipulates that a DSO must conduct at least one comprehensive annual inspection of each registered second-hand goods dealer/recycler premises (SHG Act, 6 of 2009). The participants highlighted that inspections are necessary for several important reasons, as they help ensure safety, quality, compliance and overall efficiency.

When participants were requested to respond on the procedures that they employ in inspecting the business premises of dealers and recyclers, they highlighted the following aspects:

- The licence is clearly displayed as per the regulations,
- Whether the dealer/recycler fully complies with the Act in recording all goods that are bought and sold in the business, and
- They also assess the dealers / recyclers compliance with storage requirements pertaining to the seven-day rule of withholding the sale of the acquired goods, as stipulated by the Act.

The research team noted the following issues raised by the participants with regards to inspections:

a) General non-compliance with administrative regulations

Most DSOs noted that the second-hand dealers do not often fully comply with record keeping of all goods they acquire. For instance, one of the participants indicated when they inspect the registers, it is noted not all the details are fully provided in the register such as the date when the goods were acquired and sold. In this regard, participants revealed that they often issue a SAPS 610 notice as a warning for non-compliance. Moreover, some of the participants felt that it is useless to constantly issue the SAPS 610 notices to the dealers and the recyclers as this is often disregarded by them. Instead, they'd rather give verbal warnings at first and later issue fine notices (J534).

b) Elements of dishonesty by the second-hand goods dealers and recyclers

Participants highlighted that there are some Second-Hand Goods dealers and recyclers who are involved in corrupt practices. They highlighted that some of these practices include but are not limited to:

- Concealing the identity of the acquired goods by not registering such items in the official registers and storing them at the dealer's premises, and
- Using cash to purchase Second-Hand Goods to avoid a paper trail.

These alleged practices were largely indicated to be prevalent among the second-hand car dealers and second-hand cell phone dealers. Moreover, the majority of the participants noted that the recyclers and scrap metal dealers do not often comply with the storage requirements as stipulated in the Act.

5.7. Legislative gaps

The research team has noted some legislative gaps that impaired the successful application of the SHGA. These issues range from non-alignment with some legislation that ought to be implemented in line with the SHGA, exploitative elements of the Act and unclear legal regulations within the Act. Therefore, in this section, all efforts will be vested in depicting the legislative gaps.

5.7.1. Alignment gaps between the SHGA and other pieces of legislation

In terms of applications by the second-hand dealers/recyclers, the Act requires applicants to provide a zoning certificate from the municipality (SHG Act, 6 of 2009). However, some participants noted that they often experience challenges with certain zoning certificates issued by municipalities. According to the participants,

the said zoning certificates often stipulate that those business premises could be utilized for any type of business notwithstanding the location and health requirements for certain types of entities such as scrap metals and recyclers. This is purely influenced by the fact that Section 25 (1) and (2) of the Spatial and Land Use Management Act (Act, 16 of 2013) does not explicitly highlight the need to engage relevant authorities such as SAPS and other entities in the rezoning of any municipal land. It is therefore worth highlighting that the alignment gaps among different Acts that impact the SHGA do have an adverse effect on the proper application of the Act particularly in reviewing the applications of the recyclers permits.

5.7.2. Exploited elements of the Act

Furthermore, the data at our disposal indicates certain elements of the Act tend to be exploited in avoiding administrative compliance by some of the dealers. For instance, one of the participants highlighted the fact that the Act states any item less than R100 in value may not be recorded in a dealer's goods register. According to the participants, this provides an opportunity for certain individuals to evade recording the details of the sellers as required by the Act. They further mentioned that in certain instances, some of the alleged criminals break the items into pieces and sell them to scrap metal dealers over an extended period. Additionally, the DSOs remarked that this phenomenon complicates tracing the movement of certain goods particularly at scrap metal dealers.

5.7.3. Unclear legal regulations

Participants alluded it is impossible to enforce the establishment of the dealer's forum, since the Act does not compel dealers to form part of such a structure as prescribed in the legislation.

5.8. Challenges

The study noted the following challenges which were highlighted during the data collection process. They subsume among others:

- Under resourced Second-Hand Goods dealer unit at police station level,
- High administrative burden for the DSOs,
- Lack of cooperation among different entities in the second hands goods value chain, and
- Lack of uniform application of the Act throughout the various police precincts in the province.

Moreover, the participants further noted that several police stations in the province often utilise a single officer for the administration of both the Liquor and SHGA. In addition, the participants also stated that this impacts on the frequency of inspections which the said officer could conduct daily. Additionally, the participants further stated that the administrative burden that relates to the assessment of applications and renewals further contributes to the inability of the DSOs to conduct routine inspections at the dealers and recyclers premises. Some participants, particularly, general dealers indicated they have challenges in verifying the authentic ownership of the goods obtained such as mobile phones. Furthermore, they noted this is exacerbated by the fact that entities such as mobile network operators and insurance companies are not willing to create a platform where the second-hand dealers can verify the true origins of the devices obtained from different sellers. Consequently, the research team also recorded that not all DSOs employ a similar technique in implementing the Act. For instance, some of the participants demonstrated innovative measures they have put in place to enhance the detection of stolen goods in the second-hand goods market in their policing precinct. Whereas there were other DSOs who said they are struggling to fully enforce compliance by all the dealers in their policing precinct.

VI. Conclusion

The study resolved there are several factors that impact the effective application of the SHGA in the City Region particularly in the sampled policing precincts. For instance, the data at our disposal highlights the inconsistent application of the Act in the province and elements of general non-compliance by the dealers in the different localities in the province. Additionally, the growing involvement of organized crime as highlighted by the literature further impacts on the efforts of preventing the sale of stolen goods in the second-hand goods marketplace. Moreover, the data further demonstrates that the under-resourced second-hand goods units severely affect SAPS ability to monitor the second-hand goods industry particularly in Gauteng.

VII. Recommendations

Having highlighted the key elements of the findings of the present study, it remains prudent to indicate the recommendations that emanate from the research undertaken. The initial purpose of embarking on a study of this nature was to enable the GDCS to have a better understanding of the challenges which affect the effective application of the Second-Hand Goods Act 6 of 2009 in prohibiting the sale of stolen goods in the second-hand

goods market. This, with the intention of enhancing its role of overseeing the operations of SAPS in monitoring the second-hand goods dealers and recyclers premises in Gauteng. This study proposes the following recommendations:

7.1. Training and Development

It is critical to upskill all the DSOs specifically with respect to their interpretation of the new policy directives. Given the fact that most of the evidence points to a gap between policy and practice.

7.2. Future research

There is a need to conduct a quantitative research study to assess the extent of non-compliance by Second-Hand Goods dealers in the province.

7.3. Policy and legislative review

The need to review current legislation cannot be underscored to assess its applicability to current conditions in the republic particularly in Gauteng. This includes among others, the assessment of the Act's ability to establish systems that will regulate the different categories of dealers and prohibit the elements of organised crime in the second-hand goods market.

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