



Received: 24-07-2026
Accepted: 04-09-2026

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

The Importance of Using Technology (Body Worn Cameras) to Fight Crime in South Africa

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Abstract

Unarguably, technology is part of policing in the 21st century. It is costly to implement but saves lives when it is done. There has been talk about the importance to equip all police officers in South Africa with body worn cameras, but this has not materialized so far. Some provinces like Cape Town have done pilot study in relation to body worn cameras and their relevance to modern day policing. Most traffic police officers interviewed support the idea and the

effectiveness of the body-worn cameras assisting them to do their jobs. Body-worn cameras will protect both motorists and traffic police officers. Body-worn cameras may be subject to distortions and manipulations by traffic police officers. The government should also explore more about other operational policing strategies and anti-corruption equipment to complement body-worn cameras.

Keywords: Body Worn Cameras, Technology, Crime, Corruption, Traffic Police Officers, Policing, Police Accountability

Introduction

Ranking amongst the most developing countries of the world, South Africa is left behind in the use of information technology to fight crime amongst the industrialized nations of the world. In South Africa today, we are experienced over a decade of delay in rolling out body worn cameras for law enforcement officers nationally. Within the last 10 years, there has been much debate and deliberation to roll out body worn cameras in South. While BWC is not the only law enforcement investigative technological tool minimally rolled out only few provinces that can afford it. First, the author personally believes that spending on state security should be provided by the national treasury. Second, the issue of security and safety should not be left in the hands of provincial governments alone. It must be put on the table of National security and the Minister of the security cluster and committees must come and address the public what the delay is all about when it comes to the implementation of strategies to improve policing fit for purpose for the 21st century. Without a shadow of doubt, we are nowhere near that categorization.

The author noted that police ministers within the last few years are full of ideas in terms of investing in IT to fight crime, they have openly talked about but have all failed in implementing some of the new policing initiatives they have spoken about in public. Do you raise the hopes of citizens to believe that their security will be catered for when in actual reality the government is thinking of reducing spending. Crime is directly impacting tourism, investment in our economy and citizens living in perpetual fear.

Professionalism

By professionalism in the police is more than simply wearing a police uniform and standing by the road. It involves the call to duty to serve and protect, abide by code of ethic of policing without fear or favour. Professionalism also places the onus on police officers to act with honesty and integrity and adhere to their oath of office. It also places the duty on police officers to treat members of the public with respect and courtesy.

Body Work Cameras

The (BWC) is a technological device comprising audio recording, visual, and voice data storage components ^[1]. It can be worn on an officer's uniform, collar, and head. It was designed to gather physical evidence from the crime scene but has since been adapted to prevent and deter police officers from using excessive force and to stop corruption. The availability of video and

audio recordings as evidence is critically important and can be the key to successful prosecution. For example, providing a judge or jury with the opportunity to see the actions and hear the words uttered by a suspect, including statements of hostility and anger, can be highly compelling [2]. Police officers can also use body-worn cameras to document interactions with victims, witnesses, and others during police-citizen encounters [3, 4].

The author provides insights and examples of a few countries where the technology (Body-Worn Cameras) has been used and tested, yielding successful results. To pursue international best practices, the author relied on two countries, namely the United States and the United Kingdom. In justifying the choice of these two countries, the writer searches for international policing best practice models [5]. According to Gaub and White (2020), there is nothing wrong with searching for international police best practice models. Several policing methods used in South Africa today were imported from other countries [6].

The writer argues that a police method that works in the United Kingdom does not necessarily mean it will also work in South Africa. The United Kingdom and South Africa do not have the same history or evolution of their distinctive democratic and legal systems. On the one hand, traffic police officers in the UK, "bobbies in the beat", are more trusted than their South African counterparts. The apartheid legacy of oppression and injustice does not allow black South Africans to trust traffic police officers then and even now, with over twenty years of democratic government in South Africa [7].

Although body-worn cameras have been introduced into the Western Cape Province in South Africa, this outcome was met with limited success as all law enforcement agencies in the province needed to widely implement it. For crime to be reduced in South Africa, the body-worn camera needs to be rolled out nationally for traffic police and not restricted to any one province alone [8]. Next, the researcher explores issues surrounding the discussion surrounding the evolution of the body-worn camera in the United States of America.

Traffic Police Body-Worn Cameras in the United States of America

The United States is one of the leading countries worldwide that has invested more in using the body-worn cameras. Former US President Barack Obama allocated a budget of 75 million dollars to facilitate the purchase of body-worn cameras for law enforcement departments [9]. The adoption of a body-worn camera was developed in stages in the United States. In Rialto, California Police Department, the body-worn camera pilot project began in February 2012. It was a random trial process with 54 participating police officers. The findings were that complaints against the police and the use of force were reduced [10]. In critically engaging the above study in the US, the researcher believes body-worn cameras cannot combat crime alone. The availability does not necessarily always translate into its productive use [11].

There are several factors at play when it comes to crime reduction, such as improved recruitment and training of new intake police officers, good management, cost-benefit, the effective criminal justice system, availability of other resources like the use of drones, robots, facial readings, forensics, offender profiling, geographical profiling and more importantly, the willingness for members of the public

to supply the police with useful information and good police-public partnership. A line of argument supported by [12]. Next, the author presents a brief overview of the introduction of the body-worn cameras in the United Kingdom.

Traffic Police Body-Worn Cameras in the United Kingdom

The British police law enforcement agencies were one of the pioneers of the body-worn camera. It was piloted in Plymouth, England, dating back to 2005. Goodall (2007), provided the goals of the pilot study as follows:

- a. To provide officers with optical evidence to reduce bureaucracy, improve sanction detections, and streamline the criminal justice process.
- b. To reduce challenges to police officer evidence in court.
- c. To increase early guilty pleas and reducing wasted police officers and court time.
- d. To reduce the number of malicious complaints made against police officers.
- e. To reduce the incidence of violent crime [13].

In the United Kingdom, successive governments have continued to invest in adopting and using body-worn camera technology. This is evidenced by some of the most recent studies by the (London Metropolitan Police Service, 2015; and Essex Police Constabulary, 2014). The College of Policing and Essex Police Constabulary in the United Kingdom collaborated in implementing Body-Worn Video (BWV) cameras to measure the impact of their use concerning domestic abuse incidents.

The study also highlighted the following interesting findings:

1. Public complaints against the police were reduced.
2. Prosecution for domestic violence was much more accessible by way of recorded evidence.
3. The incidence of anti-social behaviour and public disorder was better controlled. Most people do not want to be seen breaking the law on cameras.
4. A call for more research is needed (College of Policing, 2017) [14].

An Overview of the Utilisation of Traffic Police Body-Worn Cameras.

In South Africa, attempts to introduce the body-worn camera came through a different approach and were met with minimal success. Cape Town was the city of choice, where the first pilot process began in 2013 [15]. The researcher argued that it needed to have garnered the kind of support the adoption of it received in the United States and the United Kingdom, as explained above. Two possible reasons may be held responsible for the failure to adopt the use of the body-worn camera in the Western Cape. First, allocated finance was minimal compared to other countries mentioned above. Body Camera is a costly project to roll out. Perhaps the project collapsed before implementation due to a lack of funding. The author opined that this was a missed opportunity because had this pilot programme been successful and value for money spent during the pilot stage in Cape Town, other provinces would have followed suit in providing safer communities for their citizens. There is enough evidence to suggest that the adoption of body-worn cameras has improved police effectiveness in terms of public safety, complaints against the police, police brutality, and the successful prosecutions of suspects [16, 17]. Next, the researcher looks at the body-worn camera in South Africa.

Traffic Police Body–Worn Cameras in South Africa

First, in relating the above findings in the United Kingdom to the South African context where, for example, Gender-based Violence (GBV) is a scourge. The acceptance of body–worn cameras will be needed to gather evidence for the successful conviction of perpetrators of GBV in South Africa. High numbers of women in South Africa are reportedly killed by their loved ones. One can safely argue that the body–worn camera will not only assist traffic police alone, but other emergency services like the paramedics, ambulance, fire service, and correctional services officials will also benefit from it. The introduction of the body–worn cameras will assist officers dealing with domestic violence incidents. Drunken driving is a problem in South Africa; the COVID-19 lockdown showed us the level to which South African citizens relied on alcohol. The researcher argued that all traffic police officers in South Africa should be allocated body–worn cameras; they will complement breathalyzers and assist traffic police officers in gathering reliable evidence more efficiently, leading to successful court convictions.

The researcher argued that the South African pilot study differed significantly from the pilot studies in the United States. This may be partly because South Africa's economy has not been economically buoyant within the last ten years due to mismanagement euphemistically referred to as the "state capture" and effects of the global financial meltdown. The body–worn camera has proven to be an effective policing tool for fighting crimes internationally. Many people see it as one of the upward trajectories of human progression that will facilitate our participation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The researcher argues that it has become imperative for a body–worn camera to be introduced fully into South Africa. It can be argued that every new technology like CCTV has always raised an eyebrow and received criticism from citizens when it was first introduced.

It is a common experience that people were initially skeptical about the introduction of the body–worn cameras in the US, where it was initially met with opposition ^[18]. However, two schools of thought have emerged among researchers regarding the advantages and disadvantages of using body–worn cameras for law enforcement officers. Some critics of body cameras have argued that it is too expensive to introduce them, especially in a country like South Africa, which is currently facing economic instability and uncertainty. Body–worn cameras violate a citizen's right to privacy. Others have argued that the advantages of introducing body cameras outweigh the disadvantages ^[19, 20]. We can only reconcile these two conflicting schools of thought concerning body–worn cameras by researching and identifying academic gaps relating to body–worn cameras. In criminal proceedings in South African courts, non-consented evidence obtained unlawfully is inadmissible. It cannot be used against any person at trial. This is highlighted under (section 35 (5) of the constitution) which requires that evidence "must be excluded from a criminal matter if it would render the trial unfair or it would be detrimental to justice".

The student finds it worrying that sometimes, the state is allowed to mount surveillance on citizens if it has reliable information that not doing so will threaten national security. For example, terrorists cannot complain that the state has violated their privacy. The nature of the devastating results

of terrorism and the threat it places on society makes the defence of privacy intrusion fall away in law ^[21]. Body–worn cameras have several identified pros and cons.

Pros and Cons of Using Body–Worn Cameras

Pros:

- Footage can be used as reliable evidence during court proceedings.
- It can prevent violence from the police and members of the public "civilising effect".
- It protects both workers and members of the public from harm.
- Officers who use body–worn cameras have fewer complaints of misconduct.
- Fewer incidents of the use of force and reduced police brutality allegations.
- Reduced costly investigations and litigations against the police.
- Economic growth for manufacturers and countries where body cameras are produced. Global market over \$ 1 billion annually.
- It promotes good behaviour and professionalism.

Cons:

- Unrestricted privacy. It records everything when switched on.
- It violates citizens' right to privacy.
- The quality of the videos could be more precise, making the footage complex to interpret.
- It is too expensive to manage small police forces with a limited budget.
- Footages can be tampered with or distorted if not encrypted ^[22].

Conclusion

The author suggests that future research should continue refining and advancing methods for analysing video footage of officer behaviour. A few body–worn cameras are designed to start recording when officers activate them only. Therefore, recordings only sometimes capture not all the totality of events, making it difficult to observe and deconstruct the entire series of actions that unfolded. Similarly, civilian-captured footage does not always depict events from beginning to end and is sometimes selectively used to display the most egregious police behaviour. Body–worn camera technology Innovation has heralded a new research possibility that is not always susceptible to observer effects alone. Although footage from recordings presents its limitations, it can be used as a reliable and valuable data source, allowing scholars to retroactively understand the context of events under investigation presented through court evidence.

During the field work conducted by the author, questions were provided to serving traffic police officers in Gauteng Province South Africa. All the participants were chosen from Gauteng Province for two reasons. First, Gauteng Province is the most populous and economic vibrant province in South Africa. It has five traffic police departments namely: National Traffic Police (NTP), Johannesburg Metropolitan (JMPD) Tshwane Metro Police (TMPD), Ekurhuleni, (EMPD), and Gauteng Provincial Traffic Police. Second, this gave the author various participants from these departments. The age of participants varied from 25–65 years due to operational reasons. A three-year minimum length of service was set as a criterion. Due

to the researcher's senior rank in the traffic police, the author had no direct contact with the participants as most of them would not be comfortable if the researcher conducted the interview. Corruption is a severe challenge in traffic policing, and most officers are unwilling to discuss it mainly due to fear of reprisal that may emanate from doing so. To overcome these challenges, the researcher appointed three field researchers and two gatekeepers to assist in interviewing all thirty participants. The confidentiality of all participants was protected, and interviews were conducted at venues to be determined by the participants. Their participation was voluntary, and there was no payment for their participation.

Below are some of the questions and answers provided as follows:

Question 8: In what ways do you think the use of body-worn cameras are going to help in reducing traffic police corruption?

P1 stated that:

I think the introduction of body-worn cameras for traffic police officers are a very good idea. I also think the implementation of the idea is going to be complex because some traffic police departments do not have the finance to purchase these cameras, regularly service and maintain the cameras. In South Africa, we have still not even recovered from the impact of Covid 19 on our economy. The budget to buy body-worn cameras may not be available to several municipalities and provinces. One thing I do know for certain is about the camera watching you will make you behave properly”.

P2 stated that “Nobody would like to be seen recorded on camera soliciting for a bribe”.

P3 explained that:

“I believe body-worn cameras will help us especially when any officer is reported by members of the public to be corrupt. It will also protect the officer from false allegations and protect members of the public from verifying their allegations. It will reduce incidents of police brutality and verbal physical attacks on traffic police officers by motorists. In extreme circumstances, some of our colleagues have lost their lives in the hands of motorists. Body-worn cameras will protect and save more lives on our roads in the long term”.

P4 stated that:

“It will help us a traffic police officers, members of the public will no longer see me a woman in uniform to be assaulted. As women, male drivers do not respect us, they speak to us in a condescending way. Men are not used to be questioned by a woman. The dominant culture of patriarchy is seen by aggressive motorists. The body-worn camera will control this kind of hostile behaviour towards traffic police officers.”

P5 stated that:

“It will make all of us understand that it is no longer going to be business as usual. You are recording your own exit. So, you have no choice but to do the right thing”.

P6 explained that:

“It will help by protecting traffic police officers from harm.

We have lost some colleagues in the line of duty from an unprovoked attack by motorists. Some angry motorists run over our colleagues just because they do not want to be stopped by a traffic officer. The body-worn cameras will give some kind of protection while we are on duty”.

P7 stated that:

“Body -worn camera will provide us with evidence about what the traffic police officer wearing is doing every second, minutes and hours. It is a very good and fantastic idea. It is also going to protect the lives of both motorists and traffic police officers. It must be constantly monitored free from distortion”.

P8 suggested that “clear force rules and Standing Order must be made available to traffic police officer in relation to the use of body-worn cameras and applicable sanctions of any misuse”.

P9 stated that “Body-worn cameras cannot stop corruption on their own. Traffic officers need to reorientate into the act of learning how to say ‘no’ to bribery”.

P10 stated that “Body-worn cameras will save more lives on our roads”.

P11 stated that:

“Body-worn cameras will put to end the illegal collection of money from motorists at roadblocks”.

P12 opined that “wearing a body-worn camera, you are unable to do the usual side hustling meaning lesser cash to take home.”

P13 stated that:

“If you are still thinking of taking a bribe, it becomes a suicidal move leading to instant dismissal. The issue of my word against his word no longer exists because the camera recording produces sufficient evidence for prosecution”.

P14 explained that:

“The Body -worn cameras will help to reduce corruption, protect us from attack while on duty. it also protects motorists from police brutality. Bribe-taking will become a thing of the past due to the use of cameras.

P15 stated that:

“The Body-worn cameras will help me to do my job effectively. It will also protect me both from the motorists against any allegations and counter allegations. It will increase our motivational level and productivity”.

P16 explained that:

“Body camera as I understand it has been tried and tested in the United States of America. I have read about it – that some police officers have used it successfully to support their policing. We need to be looking at doing so here in South Africa. The body -worn cameras are designed in such a way to create some discomfort for bent police officers. Let me be honest with you, its benefits go beyond that, it also protects my life and the motorists. Several traffic officers have been falsely accused by motorists; these cameras will help us to prove most of these unfounded allegations. In some instances, you issue out a ticket, the driver decides to

be malicious and complains about you for either verbally or physically abusing them. The use of body-worn cameras will tell what happened”.

P17 stated that:

“We have seen how social media; cell phones have assisted us to expose corruptive elements in the police over the years. Body-worn cameras will complement it as part of our fight against corruption. Technology should be used to its maximum to fight against corruption. Body-worn cameras will also protect both the officer and motorist from physical harm”.

P18 explained that:

“The introduction Body-worn cameras in my opinion will help a lot. It will disrupt any environment where corruption thrives. It will make it very difficult for traffic officers to carry on with their corruption business as usual. It will also provide some form of security and protection for both officers and motorists.

P19 stated that:

“I believe that body-worn camera will prevent corruption in traffic policing in South Africa”.

P20 stated that:

“I am convinced that body-worn cameras will help us a lot to root out corrupt officers. It will be a game changer to the way we do things”.

P21 explained that:

“It will assist us in knowing that the camera is recording every of my movements, how I relate to motorists and to some extent measures my performance”.

P22 also explained that:

“Body -worn cameras will help us a lot. It will also help us to provide evidence in relation to our actions. Some motorists accuse us of false corruption in the line of duty. Especially when there are no witnesses to support our version of the incident. People tend to believe motorists more than traffic officers because of the stigma of the cold drink thing”.

P23 stated that:

“By wearing body-worn camera, it will be easy for management to see all our activities accurately. No more allegations of fabrication as cameras do not lie about our actions and conduct. This will put a stop to some motorists who want to retaliate against us for giving them tickets to pay a fine”.

P24 stated that:

When traffic police officers know they are wearing a body-worn camera, they will never made the mistake of taking a bribe in front of the cameras because if they do, they stand the risk of losing their jobs. Body-worn cameras will drastically reduce corruption in traffic police.

P25 explained that:

When wearing a body-worn camera, you will be forced to become very disciplined. You will no longer be able to do as you please as you know that the body-worn camera is gathering all evidence for and against you. Nobody is lying

against you or framing you up. The chances of being caught taking a bribe is very remote.

According to P26,

“It will be very useful when it comes to getting involved in police chase, I still think that the use of boy-worn a camera has some challenges. First, it does not show all the angles of the police officer using it and second, it does not state what happens if the camera malfunction during a critical incident. For these reasons I have some reservations”.

P27 stated that:

“It is going to help; it will tell everyone what was going on. It will record all wrongdoings of both the motorists and traffic police officers”.

P28 explained that:

“The body- worn cameras will promote the gathering and presenting of good evidence before the court, making it easier for traffic officers to prove their cases. These cameras will also disrupt our colleague’s intention to do illicit activities. Members of the public will not offer a bribe in front of a camera.

P29 stated that:

“The body-worn camera will show all our activities good or bad. Cameras do not always record bad things we do. If we treat and communicate well with members of the public, it also records it. Cameras can be used for good and bad”.

P30 stated that:

“Body-worn camera will reduce corruption as most of us we become aware that the camera is recording every move will make”

Analysis of Participants Responses to Question 8:

It is a positive development to observe that most participants expressed the view that the use of body-worn cameras would enable them to perform their duties more effectively. The civilising effect of body-worn cameras were also discussed; no traffic police officer would break the law knowing that there is a body camera recording them on duty. However, it is important to acknowledge that body-worn cameras have their own shortcomings. These include high costs, susceptibility to manipulation and distortion of recordings, potential violation of citizens' right to privacy, low-quality video recording footage, and the absence of uniform force guidance regulating their use.

Question 9: How do you think the introduction of body-worn cameras will help you to do your job more effectively?

P1 stated that:

“It will help me to do my job effectively. It is not everything I can remember that took place on my shift. Body-worn cameras are reliable resources; I can always fall back on it to support me to do my work effectively. I cannot remember everything that happens on my shift. It will reduce corruption. Body -worn cameras will help both motorists and traffic police officers to gather reliable evidence”.

P2 stated that:

“Yes, body-worn cameras will help us to do our jobs effectively. Motorist will become aware, that giving bribes

to a traffic police officer will lead to their arrest and charged to court without fear or favour”.

P3 explained that:

“I will be very careful not to break any law because I know my body-worn camera is going to watching me all the time. If I do good or bad, the camera will record it. I will have to take my job more seriously; this promotes my effectiveness”.

P4 stated that:

“It will help me to do my job effectively because the camera will record all my activities good or bad. It will become valuable evidence for my performance monitoring. No hidden places for me and the motorists. No more regular visitation to the mall shopping when you are supposed to be at work. Valuable, wasted time will be accounted for”.

P5 stated that:

“It will record all my activities and make take my job more seriously as the camera is watching me”.

P6 explained that:

“First, it will enhance my productivity and visibility. I can no longer come to work late or knock off early. All my working hours will be accounted for. Everything I do is done in the open”.

P7 stated that:

“It will help every traffic police officers to do their jobs effectively. The United States of America and the United Kingdom are model examples of countries where these cameras have been tried and tested with successful outcomes”.

P8 stated that: “It will make me become more accountable and dedicated to my duty”.

P9 stated that “Body-worn cameras will make traffic police officers to be more focus and proactive at work”.

P10 added that “Body-worn camera will most of us to become very serious with our jobs”.

P11 explained that:

“A body-worn camera will assist us to deal with complaints against us from members of the public. Some motorists will go as far as reporting us for revenge for our refusal not to take a bribe when offered to us. It will also show the extent of abuse and level of aggression from motorists. All said, I feel we are going to be more protected from harm and spontaneous attack”.

P12 stated that body-worn cameras “makes me more accountable for all my duties and assigned roles”.

P13 stated that body-worn cameras “will reduce false allegations often levied against us by angry motorists. The body-worn camera will tell us what transpired in all incidents”.

P14 stated that:

“It will me to do my job effectively. It will exonerate me from false allegations from motorists, will justify some of

my actions and why I took certain decisions especially in relation to traffic police officer’s use of force”.

P15 stated that:

“I cannot remember all the incidents. The body-worn camera is vital for policing in the 21st century. South Africa government should invest in it”.

P16 explained that:

“There should be a policy in relation to the use of body-worn cameras. For example, any traffic police officers must not switch off their cameras while on duty, they are not also allowed to edit the recording and methods of exhibiting evidence taken from these cameras must be a uniform standard throughout South Africa. I believe that the body-worn camera is a very useful tool at the disposal of law enforcement officers. It will make us do our jobs more effectively. But I also have some doubts whether we can afford them in South Africa?”

P17 explained that:

“I have two views on this issue. First, I believe that body-worn cameras will enable traffic officers to do their jobs effectively. Secondly, the wearing of body-worn camera sends a wrong message to the public that my employers do not actually trust me to do my job without looking at what I am doing 24/7”.

P18 stated that:

“Body-worn cameras can provide us with recorded evidence to support performances as traffic police officers. It can make some of us become very serious and accountable in our job and responsibilities. I do not have any problems wearing a body-worn camera”.

P19 stated that:

“It will make all traffic police officers do their job effectively. It will create some discomfort among a good number of us who cannot live without taking a bribe”. South Africa cannot be left behind in the quest for better ways of protecting our communities especially in country where violence is very high”.

P20 explained that:

“Yes, I will have to perform better because the body -worn camera will tell all my movements and working habits. In the long term, it will enhance my efficiency as I understand it because I cannot hide my activities from the camera”.

According to P21,

“Body-worn cameras will protect traffic officers from physical harm or attack from motorists. Protect both the officer and the motorists when it comes to gathering evidence and giving testimony in court. With the country battling with load shedding, can we afford body-worn camera? The government has been talking about giving us body-worn cameras for over six years but have not delivered in their promises so far”.

P22 explained in more detail,

“We as traffic police officers are often abused by motorists. In some instances, we are physically attacked and get killed by drivers. Drivers run down traffic police officers in an unprovoked attack is always reported in the news, the Body

-worn cameras will reduce these senseless attacks on traffic police officers. At the end of the day, from my 20 years' experience as traffic policewoman, the law does not always protect us that much. We must look out for ourselves daily when we are on duty. Do not expect motorists to always do the right thing. There are always going to be some drivers who want to deliberately cause harm because they do not want to be issued tickets.

P23 explained that:

"The body-worn camera will reduce the risks associated with our job on the road. Some motorists do not want their photos taken by the police, so they will have to comply to good behaviour without us reminding them to do so. I think this research is very important for traffic police officers because 22 years' service in my position, no researcher or person has ever come to me to ask me about how can my job be improved? I believe all law enforcement officers should be provided with a body one cameras not only traffic officers."

P24 stated that:

"I think the body-worn cameras will help me to do my job effectively. Some motorists are provocative towards us. In circumstances where any of colleagues are found to be collecting bribes capturing, that will mean the end of the road for such colleagues caught on cameras taking bribes putting on the wrong side of the law. My body-worn camera will protect me as officer on duty; it will tell who initiated the bribery processes. Everything will become clearer supporting or defending false allegations against us".

P25 stated that:

"I will be more effective and have no time to play around as my performance will improve knowing I am being watched by the camera. It will be my time to shine for my bosses showing that I take pride in serving our people and country. Everything will be done by the book".

P27 stated that "I will no longer be able to evade my responsibilities or go to the mall".

P29 explained that:

"Body-worn cameras will make us to become more serious and more effective in all our duties. It will protect us from the hands of aggressive motor drivers who wants to always pick up a fight with traffic police officers for stooping them and issuing with a ticket. It will no longer be my word against their word because the camera will supply us with the evidence needed to prosecute or not to prosecute".

P30 stated that:

"It will make me more committed to the traffic police officer call to duty 100% no rule bending or evasiveness. Every hour is earned, and every absence accounted for".

Conclusion

Collectively, we must have scientific knowledge and expertise to combat crime of the 21st century added to what technology is offering us. From artificial intelligence to smart policing, intelligence led policing, robotic cops, to mention but a few.

The author calls on the South African government to become more proactive with this unavoidable technology

strategy to fight crime. Provide budget for funding the police to do their jobs effectively well. The citizens are very much concerned about high crime rates, crime spiraling of control, a judiciary not speedy enough to meet the demands of citizens. Cases are taking too long to be prosecuted in our courts in South Africa e.g Senzo Meyiwa. No case should be allowed to go past 24 months.

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