

ARE YOU DRIVING A WRITTEN-OFF CAR?

How well do you know your car? Did you know that it is possible you are driving a written-off vehicle?

After road carnages, devious dealers bribe their way into ownership of written-off vehicles. This kind of endeavor is mainly run by garage and scrapyards owners. In the same uncouth barrel, are crooked police officers, auctioneers and security guards; who all aid in one way or the other, in the heist or illegal ownership of said vehicles. The garages and shops sell old car parts, from the salvaged cars, as well as stolen cars fitted with new number plates from the recovered cars. The robbers are paid up to a whopping Ksh 80,000.

How it works.

The mobsters and kingpins secure the recovered cars with the most recent number plates, most of the time having to bribe insuring agents close to Ksh 200,000. The moment the debris is picked up, the leader tasks his team to go out and find a similar model, for instance, a Toyota Premio. Armed with guns and ketamine, they go forth and roam the city and even estates, for possible targets. This is where the estate security guards come into play. They give valuable tips and access, which lands them a payday of up to Ksh 40,000. Once the model is acquired, an expert technician dismantles the tracking device to avoid unnecessary tails.

An insider (a gang member who was arrested), revealed that once the car gets to the yard, the engine and chassis number are set aside. They use a high-tech device, that enables them to overwrite on the old identity. Lastly, the logbook and the identity of the written-off debris are then used to validate the stolen car, and it is now ready for sale.

Association of Kenya Insurers (AKI) CEO, Tome Gichuhi, insisted that there are plenty of lodged fraudulent claims done in the name of the stolen cars and debris. He said, "We have established fraud control measures where the data of all insured vehicles and policy holders is posted on a central platform managed by AKI. This ensures once an accident claim is paid, nobody can lodge a similar claim."

Source: Standard Media Group.