

The Compound Police: Idea of a Noise-monitoring Device in Crowded Residences

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ABSTRACT The study conceptualised a noise-monitoring device that could be used by managers of crowded residential areas. The hypothesised noise-monitoring device which operates like compound police is envisaged to replace human presence in noise detection, monitoring, and switching off of noise-making machines that transgress set community noise standards. The device targets loud music or unwanted sound generated by radios and television sets. The intended device could work in places such as hostels, flats, townhouses, dormitories, office buildings and similar residences or workplaces in which the playing of loud music is restricted. The study attempted to demonstrate how the conceptualised device works by providing a theoretical framework on which to base the design of the noise-monitoring machine and the equipment that could be used in the manufacture of the device. Theoretically, the idea provides positive engineering indicators of the possibility of designing the intended noise-monitoring device in South Africa. Directions for future research could focus on laboratory testing of the idea in order to produce and patent such a device.