

PRESS RELEASE

To : All Media
Issued : Wednesday, 06 January 2016
Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters / PR Wires

North West Traffic officer arrested for soliciting bribes

GAUTENG: A City of Matlosana (Klerksdorp) traffic officer has been arrested today for allegedly soliciting bribes. The officer was arrested by an undercover member of the National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit (NTACU) on Leemhuis street next to Oleander Park old age home where he was conducting a speed law enforcement operation.

The traffic officer allegedly demanded a R150 bribe from an undercover agent after he had stopped the agent for exceeding the speed limit and driving without a driving licence. He was immediately arrested and will appear in the Klerksdorp magistrate court tomorrow (Thursday January 7). This is a second traffic officer to be arrested for soliciting bribes since the start of the festive season road safety campaign.

Sergeant Sebo Mathabatha of the Tshwane Metro Police was earlier arrested for soliciting a R100 bribe from an undercover. She has appeared in the Cullinan magistrate court. Another traffic officer, Mr Oupa Mashiya attached to Emfuleni municipality, is currently on trial in Vanderbiljpark after being arrested for soliciting bribes during the Easter holiday period.

The National Anti-Corruption unit has been involved a number of arrests intended to get rid of corruption within the traffic law enforcement sector. These include the arrest of the former Wolmaransstand traffic chief Mr Judas Mahlangu on allegation of defeating the ends of justice. He has since been linked to a number of other alleged criminal activities including a scam in which an Alberton freight truck operator was issued with fraudulent licence discs for his vehicles. The truck operator, Mr JA Jordan, has alleged that he paid Mahlangu to obtain the fraudulent discs.

A further twelve officials in Northam, Limpopo and Rustenburg in the North West are scheduled to appear in various courts this year after they were arrested by members of NTACU on allegations of fraud and corruption in vehicle testing centres.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Road Traffic Management Corporation Advocate Makhosini Msibi has warned traffic officials that there will be no mercy shown to them if they are found to have been involved in corruption.

“Society demands that law enforcement officers should conduct themselves ethically at all times and that harsh punishment should be meted out to those who conduct themselves in a corrupt matter. We have an obligation to meet these noble expectations from the community and we will not hesitate to deal with those who bring the name of traffic law enforcement officers into disrepute,” Adv. Msibi said.

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ISSUED BY: The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)

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