

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Attention : News Editors/ Transport Reporter/ PR WIRES

Traffic Chief on the run as anti-corruption officials clamp down on fraud in vehicle testing centres

Pretoria: The Wolmaransstad Magistrate Court has issued a warrant for the arrest of the local Traffic Chief Mr Judas Mahlangu after he failed to appear in court today (30/09/2015) to face charges of fraud and corruption. Mahlangu was first arrested by the National Traffic Anti-corruption Unit in July this year on allegations of impersonating a traffic officer and defeating the ends of justice. He was re-arrested in September after investigations revealed that he was involved in more acts of alleged criminality. He was out on a bail of R5 000.

He has been linked to a scam in which an Alberton freight truck operator was issued with fraudulent licence discs for nine of his vehicles. The truck operator, Mr JA Jordan, has alleged that he paid Mahlangu to obtain the fraudulent discs. Mahlangu's case was postponed to 16 November a date on which another Wolmaransstad official, Mr D Mathibe, responsible for examining vehicle is also scheduled to appear in court.

Mathibe is facing fraud and corruption charges after it was found that he issued roadworthy certificates for vehicles that he had not examined. It is alleged that he demanded a bribe of R1 500. A further twelve officials are scheduled to appear in various courts in October after they were arrested by the NTACU in Operation Clampdown which is intended to address instances of fraud and corruption in vehicle testing centres.

Four vehicle examiners from Northam in Limpopo will appear in court on October 16 after they were arrested on allegations that they issued certificates of roadworthiness to vehicles that were not physically presented for testing. They were arrested in March this year and were all granted bail. Seven other officials from Rustenburg in the North West will appear in court on October 22 on the same allegations. All these officials were arrested after meticulous investigations and observations that took a year as part of Operation Clampdown.

Mr Oupa Mashiya, an Emfuleni municipal traffic officer who was arrested after demanding a R200 bribe from an undercover member of the National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit will appear in Gauteng's Vanderbiljpark magistrate court on October 20. A Vryburg, North West, driving licence examiner has also been arrested for issuing a driving licence to an application without physically testing the applicant's ability to drive. The Chief Executive Officer of the Road Traffic Management Corporation Advocate Makhosini Msibi has warned traffic official 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.

Issued by the Road Traffic Management Corporation

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