

PRESS RELEASE



To : All Media
Issued : Thursday, 19 October 2017
Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters / PR Wires

Eight people arrested in Eastern Cape for fraud in vehicle testing centres

Eight people, including vehicle examiners, have been arrested by the National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit in a crackdown on fraudulent and corrupt issuing of vehicle roadworthy certificates in the Eastern Cape.

Members of the Road Traffic Management Corporation's anti-corruption unit assisted by the South African Police Services (SAPS) Eastern Provincial Task Team recovered identity documents, licences discs, credit cards and computers - including a stolen SAPS laptop - during their raids in Port Elizabeth, Butterworth and Umthatha.

The investigators first identified two male general assistants working at Deal Part and Port Elizabeth roadworthy centres who allegedly served as touts to facilitate the illegal issuing roadworthy certificates. Both men were arrested on charges of fraud and corruption.

A third suspect was arrested at Umthatha's Ezinyoka Township where he was found to be in possession of fraudulent documents including, motor vehicle licence discs, matric

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certificates, security certificates, identity documents, SAPS pay slips, credit cards and face value documents.

Four more suspects – three vehicle examiners and a cashier - from King Sabata Dalindyebo Testing Station in Mthatha were arrested on allegations that they colluded to have roadworthy certificates issued for vehicles that were not physically presented to the station for testing and examination.

Another male examiner of vehicles was arrested at Butterworth Testing Centre on charges of fraud and corruption related to the same offences as the others.

Un-roadworthy vehicles play a significant role in the number crashes that take place on South African roads. An investigation conducted by the RTMC on major crashes that occurred in 2016 found that un-roadworthy contributed 10.1% of all major accidents where five or more people died or where multi vehicles were involved and there was a fatality.

The Eastern Cape experienced 20 major crashes in 2016 resulting in 87 people losing their lives.

Issued by: Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)

Eco Origin Office Park, Block F

349 Which Hazel Street, Highveld Ext 79, Centurion

www.rtmc.co.za

Spokesperson- Simon Zwane: (082) 551 9892

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