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The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) is an Agency of The Department of Transport and a Member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All News Editors

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Attention : News Reporters / Transport Reporters / Newswires

Vehicle roadworthiness ring broken.

BREAKING: Members of the National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit have broken a major syndicate which has been operating to fraudulently produce roadworthy certificates between the North West and Eastern Cape Province.

Three kingpins were arrested today when members of the Road Traffic Management Corporation's Anti-corruption Unit swooped on a vehicle testing station in Port Elizabeth in a joint operation with the Hawks.

The three are alleged to be behind a syndicate that operates between Port Elizabeth and Brits and produces roadworthy certificates on order. Roadworthy certificates were issued for vehicles that were not physically tested.

Members of the RTMC anti-corruption unit had been investigating the syndicate for about six months before today's bust.

This came as the Mokopane magistrate court in Limpopo sentenced a former member of the National Traffic Police to six years direct imprisonment for corruption.

Rodney Dagalo Ramusia (29)) was arrested in May 2018 on R101 near Malotane where he was extorting bribes from motorists. He stopped an undercover agent and demanded a R200 bribe instead of discontinuing the vehicle and issuing a fine.

The Road Traffic Management Corporation has welcomed the arrests and conviction of Ramusia.

The RTMC CEO Advocate Makhosini Msibi said the sentence handed to Ramusia will send a strong message that traffic officers are not above the law.



"It is good to see the courts taking a tough stance against bribery and corruption. Traffic officers who demanded bribes from motorists abuse trust placed on them by the state and the courts should not show them mercy,' he said.

The three Port Elizabeth suspects are expected to be transported to Brits where they will appear in court on Thursday.

Investigations are continuing and more arrests are expected. The suspects are believed to operate about ten vehicle testing stations in Port Elizabeth.

Their conduct places road users at risk of fatal crashes because un-roadworthy vehicles are one of the major causes of crashes on South African roads.

Members of the public are urged to get involved in efforts to safety on the country's roads. Those with information on bribery and corruption at vehicle testing stations are urged to report such on 0861 400 800.

ENDS

ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC)

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