



Road Traffic
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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

PRESS RELEASE

To : All News Editors
Issued : 06 SEPTEMBER 2022
Attention : News Reporters / Transport Reporters / Newswires

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HIGH COURT RULES AGAINST TRAFFIC OFFICER IN A CORRUPTION APPEAL.

BREAKING NEWS: The Road Traffic Management Corporation welcomes the High Court decision dismissing the conviction and sentencing of a Limpopo traffic officer for corruption.

Officer Portia Motsatsi Ramphelo approached the Limpopo division of the High Court in Polokwane to appeal her two-year conviction and imprisonment term imposed by the magistrate court.

Officer Ramphelo and her co-accused Kgapane Stanley Makhurupetse was arrested in 2017 during "Operation Siyabangena" to weed out bribery and corruption within the traffic law enforcement sector in Limpopo.



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The Department of Transport



Board of Directors: Mr Z Majavu CD(SA) (Chairman), Ms P Manqele, Ms T Mdlulwa,
Mr T Kgomo, Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge, Dr E Thebe, Adv. J Makgatho*
Chief Executive Officer: Advocate MS Msibi
Company Secretary: Ms S Petse
**Departmental Representative*

The trial court sentenced Ramphelo to two years imprisonment without the option of a fine and Makhurupetse was sentenced to four years imprisonment of which two years were suspended for a period of four years for accepting a R150 bribe from an uncover officer.

In an appeal court decision delivered by Justice Kganyago with Justice Naude-Odendaal concurring, the court said “the war of reducing accidents on the roads and making road users obey the rule of road will never be won” if law enforcement officers are involved in corrupt activities.

“The offence which the appellant had committed had elements of dishonesty, and as a law enforcement officer, that will not be measured by the value of the gratification given to them. Dishonesty remains dishonesty and the value of gratification received will not make it less honest”.

“A high degree of professionalism, morals, and honesty is expected from law enforcement officers. If they are left to do as they wish, society at large will lose confidence in the officers who are supposed to protect road users from those who break traffic laws on daily basis,” the court said.

It is expected that Ramphelo will now hand herself over to the police to start serving her sentence.

The RTMC welcomes the court decision as it sends out a clear message that corruption within the law enforcement sector will not be tolerated



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and the courts are willing to impose appropriate sentences that serve as a deterrent to others.

This comes as seven suspects were arrested at Fochville licensing department yesterday on allegations of fraud relating to the issuing of driving licences.

The suspects which include examiners of vehicles, a driving school operator and applicants were caught by members of the Road Traffic Management Corporation's National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit.

One suspect had apparently travelled from Cape Town to obtain a driving licence allegedly without going through the normal process of applying for a driving licence.

The suspects are detained at Fochville police station. The investigations are continuing, and the prospects of more arrests at this stage is not ruled out.

The Chief Executive Officer of the RTMC, Adv. Makhosini Msibi has issued a stern warning to those seeking to obtain driver's license fraudulently.

"The anti-corruption unit will remain on alert to bringing corrupt individuals to justice. South Africa has a high road fatality rate, and this is partly due to drivers who obtain their driving licence without going through proper processes."



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Members are called up to report suspicions of bribery and corruption by sending a WhatsApp message to 083 293 7989 or email ntacu@rtmc.co.za

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ISSUED BY THE: ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

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