

17 AUGUST 2007

**DRIVING SCHOOL OWNER AND AN EXAMINER ARRESTED ON CORRUPTION AND
FRAUD CHARGES**

To root out the corruption within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, the Traffic and Transport Investigation Unit together with the Newcastle Organized Crime Unit arrested a driving school owner and an examiner on fraud and corruption charge.

An examiner, Marie Louise Smith (52) from Emadlangeni Municipality, Utrecht and Rashida Mehmood (64) from Sharzi Driving School in Newcastle were arrested after months of investigation and a close watch following the numerous complaints from the members of the public. It is alleged that one member of the public paid Smith R4 000 with a promise of getting learners license and a driving license illegally that was never received.

After their arrests on the 15th and the 16th of August, the investigation team conducted an immediate raid at the driving school and the test centre and upon their arrival completed driving license forms, completed learners license forms, driving license cards, finger-prints pads and filled and blank bar coded finger print forms that only an authorised examiner is allowed to fill were recovered.

After the raid it was discovered that there was a link between the documents found at the driving school premises and the examiner. Both accused were arrested and were detained at Newcastle police station and were later released on R2 500 bail.

MEC Bheki Cele re-iterated his road safety message “ It is the department’s mandate to ensure that corruption is rooted out especially the issuing of illegal driving licenses cause it impact badly on the road safety and the department will continue to ensure that all the road users are safe in order to decrease road crashes”, said Cele.

ENDS

Issued by: Nonkululeko Mbatha

Office of the MEC
083 6456 252