



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU APPLAUDS FRAUD AND CORRUPTION BUST AT PHOENIX TESTING STATION

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has applauded the joint operation by the (KZN-Department of Transport), Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) and SAPS Organised Crime Unit, which uncovered fraud and corruption activities that led to the arrests of two suspects for allegedly issuing fraudulent road-worthiness certificates.

The three suspects were arrested yesterday (10 November 2013) at Durban's Phoenix Testing Station.

KZN DOT had commenced investigations after it was detected that there is a large number of vehicles being tested at the Phoenix Testing station. As part of an intensive undercover operation a vehicle with numerous defects was presented for a roadworthiness test at the testing station, and was passed after one official allegedly accepted a bribe.

Another examiner of vehicles at this testing station was also arrested for having passed a defective vehicle as part of the same entrapment set up. An employee, who is a pit assistant and facilitates transactions, was also arrested for his part in the corruption charges. The three suspects were arrested and appeared in court for charges relating to fraud and corruption.

MEC Mchunu has applauded this swift move, saying it will go a long way towards improving roadworthiness of vehicles used on our roads, which in turn will ensure increased road safety.

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"I can assure you that the department will be serving a notice on the three implicated officials to terminate their accreditations to conduct such work as soon as everything is processed in this regard," he said.

"The Department has managed to close 10 testing stations for allegations of fraud and corruption-related activities. This further shows how serious the department is about rooting out fraud and corruption. I have no doubt this will send a clear message to all those who are still involved in these shenanigans that the long arm of the law will leave no stone unturned to make sure that all involved are dealt with accordingly," said Mchunu.

MEC Mchunu announced at the beginning of this year an extensive audits to investigate all vehicle testing stations with the view of improving road safety.

Ends.

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