



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES ARRESTS OF TWO SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has welcomed the arrest of two senior Department of Transport's officials for alleged corruption and receiving kickbacks from companies contracted to the department.

Mchunu said the arrests of Simphiwe Majola and Sulka Pooran Maharaj did not come as a surprise as the department has been aware of an on-going investigation by the KwaZulu-Natal Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT, a division of the Hawks in KwaZulu-Natal).

The two were arrested following an internal investigation by the department triggered by a whistleblower, which suggested improper relations with companies benefiting in the department's procurement systems.

The Department of Transport then referred this matter to Internal Audit Forensic Unit and the ACTT for further investigation.

Majola is alleged to have benefited more than R2 million and Maharaj is alleged to have benefited by more than R300000 from companies, which allegedly received orders by flouting government's procurement processes.

This alleged corruption relates to the hiring of Barleda 232 CC, Ubunye Plant Hire CC and Queensburgh Equipment Rental CC to hire mechanical plant to the department for road maintenance and other related construction work.

The companies are owned by Meganathan Govender and his wife who have been arrested in this regard and appeared in court this morning (Friday).

Majola appeared at the Durban Commercial Crime Court and granted a R50 000 bail, while Maharaj appeared at the KwaDukuza Magistrate court and granted R10 000 bail on Wednesday.

MEC Mchunu said official internal disciplinary processes are currently underway.

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“We welcome the arrest of the two officials and we will continue to cooperate fully with all relevant law enforcement agencies working on this matter, while internal disciplinary processes will continue to run in parallel. As I said in my budget vote earlier this year, we remain very focused on efforts to evaluate our procurement systems to determine whether the department gets its value for money. At the same time, we will continue to track progress on our transformation targets and root out corruption wherever it may exist within our ranks to ensure that we uphold the highest governance standards,” said Mchunu.

Ends.

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