



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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ELEVEN SUSPECTS APPEAR IN THE MELMOTH MAGISTRATE COURT OVER DRIVERS' LICENCE FRAUD

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport hugely welcomes the sterling work done by the department's internal crime busting unit and the Hawks in arresting eleven (11) suspects involved in the learners' and drivers' licence fraud in Melmoth.

Yesterday (Wednesday, 15 November 2023) the Department's Traffic and Transport Inspection Unit (TTIU) and the Hawks busted two former examiners in uMthonjaneni Local Municipality.

Nine (9) applicants, who also received their learners' licences fraudulently have also been charged and they all appeared at the local magistrate court today.

The two examiners were granted R5000 bail each and the applicants received R1000 bail each.

More arrests are still imminent, and the team is looking for more applicants who benefited during the period of this corrupt practices.

The Department has since revoked all those learners' licences that were issued as a result of the proceeds of this unforgivable act of criminality.

It is believed that each applicant would pay R2500 for a learners' licence.

The Department has intensified the work of monitoring the Driver Licence Testing Centre (DLTC's) to put an end to the issuing of learners and drivers' licences fraudulently.

The criminal syndicates operating in these centres, usually included an examiner, driving school owners and applicants.

As part of the bold measures of eradicating corruption, the Department is now at an advanced stage with the regulation of driving schools, with their district and provincial structures now in place.

Part of the work is to control the mushrooming of driving schools and ensure compliance and training of examiners.

Welcoming these arrests, the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, commended the joint task team for the good work, saying the clean operation will continue to other centres.

"This is a massive clean-up operation, and it will continue to other DLTC's. All those learners' licences will be revoked because we want only eligible drivers, who are competent on the road. Fighting fraud and corruption in our centres remains one of the strategic tasks of the current administration. Part of our agreement with the driving schools is to ensure that we eliminate this kind of behaviour, and we appeal to people to report such acts. As we are preparing for the Festive Season holidays, we want to ensure that our roads are safe," commented Hlomuka.

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