



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**To : All Media**  
**Issued : 19 October 2016**  
**Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters / PR Wires**

### **Licensing officials to spend weekend behind bars**

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Licensing officials who were arrested on alleged fraud and corruption charges are set to spend the weekend in custody after they failed to obtain bail today.

The suspects appeared in the Benoni regional court and the magistrate postponed the case to next week Tuesday (October 25) for a formal bail hearing.

The officials from Ekurhuleni in Gauteng and Secunda in Mpumalanga were arrested in a joint operation by the Hawks and the Road Traffic Management Corporation's National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit yesterday.

Operation Crocodile has over a year identified a network of officials and runners - private individuals who tout illegal business - involved in the issuing of illegal learner's and driver's licenses in the Free State, Mpumalanga and Gauteng.

Authorities are pursuing more suspects in connection with this matter.

The suspects are facing fraud and corruption charges and may be convicted to a minimum of 15 years imprisonment if found guilty.

The arrested suspects have been identified as:

Fikile Nkosi, Shaneze Mercilene Zaal, Elvis Wilson Mkwanazi, John Phatso Malete, Lucas Seema, Ntshagoyema Frans Mothapo, Phindile Debra Mahlangu, Mpho James Maphosa, Mncedisi Godfrey Msukwin, Thulile Nkonde, Annah Eleanora Deborah Thompson, Noko Hezekiel Mafokwane and Johannes Rooinek.

Nkonde, Thompson and Mafokwane were arrested in Secunda.

Mafokwane was however not part of the syndicate. He was arrested for illegal possession of official documents during the raid in Secunda. His case will be referred to the South African Police Service in Mpumalanga for processing.

Issued by the Road Traffic Management Corporation

Contact : Simon Zwane 0825519892