



Road Traffic
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The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)
is an Agency of The Department of Transport and a
Member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All News Editors
Issued : 06 February 2020
Attention : News Reporters / Transport Reporters /Newswires

Howick traffic officer sentence for fraudulently issuing learner driving licences

GAUTENG: The Durban Specialised Commercial Crimes Court has sentenced a 47-year-old traffic officer to four years imprisonment or a fine of R10 000 for fraudulently assisting learner licence applicants to pass tests at Umngeni licensing department in Howick, KwaZulu Natal.

The court said Mr S'khumbuzo Mkhulise deserved direct imprisonment for his crime. However, it took into account the fact that he had pleaded guilty and had shown remorse.

Mr Mkhulise was further placed under correctional supervision for three years and will be required to remain under house arrest, do community service and undergo a rehabilitation programme.

He was also instructed not to commit fraud, corruption, theft or any other crime for five years and not to consume alcohol or use any narcotic drugs.



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The Department of Transport



Board of Directors: Mr Z Majavu CD(SA) (Chairman), Ms P Manqele, Ms T Mdlulwa, Ms D Ewertse
Mr T Kgomo, Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge, Dr E Thebe, Mr J Motsatsing*
Chief Executive Officer: Advocate MS Msibi
Company Secretary: Ms S Petse
**Departmental Representative*

Mr Mkhulise's sentencing relates to a raid conducted by the National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit – an entity of the Road Traffic Management Corporation - and the Hawks at the Umngeni licencing department in March 2018. Fifteen people – including learner licence examiners and nine learner licence applicants - were arrested on the day on allegations of fraud. More people - including a driving school operator, a former traffic chief, and an administration clerk – were later arrested following intensive investigation bringing the total number of suspects to twenty (20).

It has been alleged that learner licence examiners at the department unlawfully and fraudulently assisted learner licence applicants to pass learner licence tests. It has been established that in one month (January 2018) more than 500 applicants unlawfully benefitted from the fraud perpetrated by officials at the department.

The Umngeni local municipality has dismissed the accused officials following lengthy disciplinary processes. Their trial is still pending at the Durban Specialised Commercial Crimes Court.

Mkhulise was found guilty and dismissed from employment in September last year. The chairperson of the disciplinary hearing found that “the employee had clearly illustrated his remorse by pleading guilty and acknowledging the wrongfulness of his actions”.

It was found that the fact that he had worked for 15 years as a traffic officer before being appointed as an examiner of learner licences was an aggravating factor.



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“Given his years of experience, he ought to have known better,” the chairperson said. “He may have gotten caught committing the offence on his first and second days on the job as a newly accredited examiner, but that does not detract from the fact that he committed a grossly dishonest act that ultimately would have no other consequence but destroy the employment relationship with his employer to the extent that even redeployment to another section cannot repair it,” the chairperson concluded.

“Although we had wished for a harsher sentence, we, however, accept the outcome of the court,” said RTMC CEO Advocate Makhosini Msibi. He said Mr Mkhulise will never be able to work in the law enforcement sector again and this means one rotten apple has been removed from the system.

He urged members of the public to join the ongoing campaign against fraud and corruption in the traffic sector by resisting to pay bribes and to report such incidents on 0861 400 800 or Email: Ntacu@rtmc.co.za. WhatsApp messages can be sent to 083 293 7989.

ENDS

ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC)

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