

Minister of Police condemns involvement in criminal activities by officials and commends law enforcement agencies

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### **Media Statement from the Office of the Minister of Police**

PRETORIA - The Minister of Police, Mr Senzo Mchunu, strongly condemns any form of abuse of power, corruption and criminal activities by government officials entrusted with serving the public. This follows a collaborative law enforcement effort comprising amongst others, the Polokwane and Musina Crime Scene Investigators, and the Road Traffic Management Corporation, which on Friday, 7 February 2025, resulted in a takedown operation targeting officials at the Lephalale Local Municipality. These officials had been under investigation since 2021 for allegations of corruption, fraud, and contravening the Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996.

Initially, five suspects—including four municipal officials and one driving school owner—were arrested, charged, and detained. Over the weekend, additional efforts led to the successful apprehension of five more suspects, comprising three officials. Yesterday, further arrests were made, bringing the total number of suspects in custody to 18. Investigations remain ongoing, and more arrests are expected as law enforcement agencies work diligently to dismantle corrupt networks.

In a separate incident, an Indian male who was kidnapped last year in September in KwaDukuza was released on Monday, 10 February 2025; the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) is carrying out investigations to trace the kidnappers.

In commenting on these matters, Minister Mchunu said the following: *“The South African Police Service and all law enforcement agencies remain steadfast in their commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that those who betray the public’s trust face the full might of justice. We unequivocally condemn any abuse of power and criminal conduct by government officials, particularly those entrusted with critical responsibilities in our institutions. Let this be a clear message: those who engage in corruption and criminality within our government structures will be held accountable. The culture of impunity must end. Furthermore, we commend our law enforcement officers for their swift action in securing the release of a kidnapped victim in KwaDukuza. This success is a testament to the dedication and skill of our police officers. We urge them to continue their thorough investigation to ensure that all those responsible for this heinous crime are brought to justice without delay.”*

**For more information, contact Ministry Spokesperson, Kamogelo Mogotsi on 076 523 0085.**

