

**To: Media Houses**

**Date: 17 May 2017**

**For immediate attention**

**Department assist The Hawks to arrest fraudulent employee: Mr Mbazima David Mavasa**

The Risk and Security Directorate of the Limpopo Department have been following allegations that there are scammers using lack of jobs as their strong point to defraud job seekers in education department. Little did they know they will end up assisting police to arrest an employee who was caught selling government bursaries to the poor learners.

The arrest happened when the Citizens Complains Unit of the Transformation Directorate of the Department was confronted by the parent of the learner victim. According to the information received, the parents were promised that their kid will get a bursary to study at Institutions of Higher Learning next year but only if they pay **R5000** to the culprit. The Section then reported the matter to the Security and Risk Directorates in the Department where the parent and the learner were assisted to go through the process of opening a case with the Limpopo Hawks offices.

With the expertise of the police and assistance of the officials of the department, police tracked down the employee and catch-up with him when taking the **bribe of R5000** from the family. The suspect was arrested at the spot and was released on **R1000 bail** today at Polokwane Magistrate court.

Mr Mavasa is facing suspension, internal discipline procedures and has been forbidden to enter his office at the work. Charges of misconduct are pressed on him by the Department. The Department will continue to deal harshly with acts of corruption and fraud, more especially by its own employees. The Department will continue to investigate other possible leads as provided by the community and those identified within the system. Community members are encouraged to bring these incident of fraud to the attention of the Department at all times.

**“Together we can do more in fighting corruption” #CORRUPTION MUST DIE!**

**Issued by Communication Services**

**Contact: Dr Naledzani Rasila**

**Cell: 072 747 3078**