

To: Members of the Media

MEDIA RELEASE:

ROAD ACCIDENT FUND STOPS FRAUDULENT CLAIMS WORTH OVER 2.6 BILLION IN THREE YEARS

The Road Accident Fund (RAF) has successfully halted fraudulent claims valued at R2 605 641 281.07 from being paid over the last three financial years. This sterling achievement was as a result of the work done by the RAF's Forensic Investigation Department, in partnership with various law enforcement agencies.

A total of 713 claims were repudiated in 2022/2023, 448 in 2021/22, and 4 172 in 2020/21. In the past three financial years, there has been a total of 32 arrests: 15 in 2022/23, 12 in 2021/22, and five in 2020/2021. The highest sentence over this period was a 12-year direct imprisonment of an attorney.

The RAF fights corruption internally and externally. This has led to the successful arrests and prosecution of various perpetrators including doctors, attorneys, RAF employees, road accident victims, and employees of corporate companies who have access to road crash information. The types of crimes committed against the RAF include the submission of fraudulent claims, solicitation of funds from RAF claimants for work conducted to assist with a claim, and theft of claimants' funds.

Internally, investigations led to the suspension of seven staff members between 2020/21 and 2022/23. Six employees resigned during further probes or hearings from 2020/21 to 2022/23.

Hundreds of cases were referred to the South African Police Services (SAPS) following pre-liminary investigations. In 2022/23, 449 cases were referred to the SAPS, 270 in 2021/2022, and 172 in 2020/21. The number of cases referred to the SAPS over this period are not directly linked to the arrests and convictions mentioned above.

RAF Chief Executive Office, Collins Letsoalo, said the Fund remains alert and investigates each case as it arises. "Fraud continues to represent a significant risk to the RAF's assets, service delivery, efficiency, and reputation. It robs claimants and dependents of the deceased of their livelihood. It also creates a negative impact on the socio-economic status of the country. We will continue to vigorously pursue any party – internally or externally – that engages in fraudulent activities or attempts to do so."

People who suspect fraud being committed against the Fund can contact **0800 005 919** anonymously. In the unfortunate event of being involved in a motor vehicle accident, the **RAF Contact Centre** is reachable on a new number, **087 820 1 111**, from **Monday to Friday, 07h45 to 16h00**. The RAF can also be reached through its offices countrywide, details of which are available on its website on www.raf.co.za.

For additional information and updates, follow the RAF on social media:
@RAF_SA or Facebook @Road Accident Fund

Issued by the Road Accident Fund

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