



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 January 2021

No tolerance approach to corruption at the Office of the Master (Pretoria)

Following a tipoff by a member of the public yesterday, the Office of the Master (Pretoria) was able to report an incident to the South African Police Service which will set in motion a criminal investigation into three officials who are alleged to have solicited a bribe from a member of the public who approached the Office for assistance in the issuing of a Letter of Authority.

A Letter of Authority is a document issued by the Master of the High Court regarding the executorship of property. The document dictates the terms of passing the estate of a deceased person to the right executor. This way, a letter of executorship is issued to the rightful executor, who thereby continues to manage the deceased's estate. To acquire a Letter of Executorship and a Letter of Authority, one must report the death of a deceased person to Master of the High Court within 14 days.

The public are reminded that the services of the Master of the High Court are provided free of charge. In this regard, we wish to emphasise that there are no circumstances that require a member of the public to exchange cash with a member of staff at the offices of the Master.

The public are encouraged to report incidents of corruption to the National Anti-Corruption Hotline on 0800 701 701.

Issued by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

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