

2008

Five people arrested for alleged VAT fraud

Pretoria 13 March 2008 – Five People were arrested in connection with alleged VAT fraud amounting to about R35 million in a swoop by the South African Police (SAPS) and South African Revenue Service (SARS) at five different premises in and around Johannesburg early this morning.

Amongst the individuals is a former SARS employee who acted as a bookkeeper to about twelve entities allegedly involved in a scam whereby fraudulent VAT was claimed.

SARS investigations into the suspected irregularities indicated that the bookkeeper may have fraudulently registered a number of business entities in her name and names of other suspects. These entities allegedly then proceeded to submit fraudulent VAT claims to SARS. The five are currently in custody pending their first appearance in the Germiston Court tomorrow.

SAPS and SARS officials in the mean time spent the major part of the morning searching premises of the entities involved, and seizing documents in terms of Section 21 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

ENDS