



Former RSL employee allegedly defrauds the organisation over M 75 000

Maseru – 21st July 2023 - Another former employee of the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), namely; Mr. Bahlakoana Makhele (45) appeared briefly before the Maseru Magistrate Court on Friday, 21st July 2023 to face 6 counts relating to contravention of Section 70(1) (A) of the Value Added Tax Act No.9 of 2001 read with section 70 (1) (i), (ii), (3)(a) (b) and (e) of the same Act. In the alternative he is charged with section 70 (5) read with section 109 (3) of the Penal Code Act of 2010.

He is further charged with 6 counts of contravening the provisions of section 25(1) (a) and (i) of the Money Laundering Act 2008 read with section 25 (2) of the Money Laundering Act 2008 as amended by section 20 of the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime (amendment) Act no.7 of 2016.

The accused is alleged to have unlawfully solicited cash amounting to M 75, 738.90 for his personal gain from the Clearing Agents who represented some companies that were RSL Clients through falsifying their payment receipts and other accompanying documents and manipulating the systems which then resulted in the organization losing such revenue. The Accused tendered his resignation from the employment of the RSL with immediate effect on the 11th April 2023 following the internal investigations into the matter.

The former RSL Senior Customs Inspector was remanded and released on bail on conditions that he pays a bail deposit of M 5000 and not to interfere with crown witnesses and to stand the trial to finality. The second remand will be on the 1st August 2023. The case is before Magistrate Itumeleng Letsika and is prosecuted by Advocate Lechesa Mahao.

The prosecution of this case is aligned to the RSL commitment to the fight against corruption in all its forms, especially within its own ranks. Clients/taxpayers are urged to report all suspected cases of corruption/theft by RSL employees through the toll-free fraud hotline number – 80022008 or email, intelligence@rsl.org.ls.

- Ends -

For clarification, please contact RSL's PR Desk: 52215781/5433