

MEDIA RELEASE

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BCM urges motorists to pay outstanding fines

The Municipality is issuing a stern warning to City motorists with outstanding traffic ticket fines and warrants.

This follows a Court Case victory at the East London Magistrate Court yesterday in which an offender who had 26 warrants of arrest was heavily sentenced. The Magistrate imposed a sentence of R9500 or 300 days & suspended the accused person's driving licence for 12 Months.

Between 01 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 over 38 000 fines were issued by BCM Law Enforcement with a value of over R34 million. An additional 102 480 notices of intended prosecutions were issued.

In the 2008/2009 financial year the Municipality managed to collect R6, 8 million of out R31, 2 million worth of fines issued.

In an attempt to tighten the execution of warrants, the Municipality is planning on purchasing a Licence Plate Recognition System (LPRS) before December 2010.

The system will assist in that the registration number of the vehicle is scanned and fed into a database and the vehicle is immediately identified and stopped. This will save time from warrants being only executed on conventional roadblocks where every vehicle has to be checked and each driver checked.

The system can also be used as a mobile unit whereby a patrol car fitted with the LPRS can patrol parked vehicles in a street or parking area and identify offenders.

The Municipality is also planning on physically visiting the homes/businesses of the offenders; intensifying roadblocks focusing specifically on the executing of warrants of arrest; and holding patrol checks. 1324 warrants of arrest were executed in June and July 2010.

The main offences are exceeding the speed limit, stopping and parking offences, unregistered/unlicensed vehicles, overloading of vehicles [passengers] and drivers not having required documentation [public motor vehicles].

Some of the challenges that we face in executing warrants are: people changing addresses; personnel and time management; and serving of warrants of arrest beyond BCM's boundaries.

- More -

Motorists who wish to check on outstanding cases or warrants of arrest can contact the BCM Traffic Department at East London on **[043] 7059336 or 7059341** or by e-mail at **julief@buffalocity.gov.za** or the King Williams Town office on **[043] 6048371 or [043] 642 3316 [Ms. N. Joba]** or e-mail at **nomawethuj@buffalocity.gov.za**. Alternatively the status of traffic offences can be viewed on **www.viewfines.net**

In doing so, they will avoid the embarrassment of being arrested and possibly being detained. Fines can also be finalized before a warrant of arrest is authorized as a warrant of arrest carries an additional fine of R150, 00.

- **Ends** -