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## R87 000 loss sparks arrest of two former officials for fraud

**STELLALANDER-VRYBURG:** The Hawks' Serious Corruption Investigation unit arrested Malane Abraham Letsapa (45) and Moreotsile Israel Oliphant (50) on Saturday, 16 August 2025, in connection with alleged fraud. Letsapa, the former Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) District Coordinator, and Oliphant, a former PR Councillor in the Dr Ruth Mompoti District Municipality, were arrested in Vryburg and Taung respectively.

According to reports, in December 2020, the Dr Ruth Mompoti District Municipality approved the implementation of the Presidential Stimulus Project (PSP) under the Department of Public Works and Roads' EPWP. The project, intended for Matsheng and Tlapeng villages in the Greater Taung Municipality, involved clearing trees and grass along the main road connecting the villages.

Investigators allege that Oliphant facilitated the selection of project beneficiaries, while Letsapa processed claims for payment over a three-month period. The investigation revealed that no services were rendered, resulting in a loss of over R87 000 to the Department. The accused appeared in the High Court of South Africa, North West Division, Mahikeng, on Sunday, 17 August 2025, for an urgent bail application. They were each granted R2 000 bail and were scheduled to appear in the Taung Magistrates' Court on Monday, 18 August 2025, facing charges of fraud.