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Author: Johan van Niekerk

Hijacked grader case in court



Johan van Niekerk

The accused in the hijack case involving a R4 million Caterpillar-road grader will spend another ten days behind bars. *Die Pos* attended the court case.

Sinhle Innocent Nkosi (34), the man accused of hijacking a road grader from the Department of Public Works on the Groot Nylsoog Road on the outskirts of Bela-Bela applied for bail in the Bela-Bela Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 28 May.

The case has been postponed to Monday, 8 June, in order for the defence to prepare their bail application. The state is opposing bail, and the court heard evidence that a second suspect is still at large.

According to evidence presented in court, Nkosi and his accomplice travelled with a vehicle from Witbank (eMalahleni) in Mpumalanga to Bela-Bela on Monday, 18 May.

They waited for the grader to approach and stopped the driver. They first asked the driver to grade a specific area for them. When he refused, one of the suspects then produced a firearm and manhandled the 64-year-old driver out of the vehicle.

The elderly driver was assaulted and tied up next to the road. The suspect with the firearm guarded the suspect while the other drove away with the grader.

The driver was held until late afternoon when a vehicle approached and the suspect left the driver, got into the vehicle, and drove off.

The driver managed to free himself and flagged down a vehicle in the road, which was coincidentally looking for the driver as the tracking system of the grader was activated.

Nkosi was arrested a few hours later in

Dennilton in the Sekhukhune district outside Groblersdal while driving the large grader.

The bail application started on Wednesday, 27 May, when it was revealed that Nkosi is of Zulu ethnicity and might not be able to follow the court proceedings. The case was then postponed to 28 May for a Zulu interpreter to be present.

The state finished their arguments against bail by late afternoon, and the case was postponed to Monday, 8 June, in order for the defence to formulate their arguments.

Nkosi will remain in custody until then. He stands accused of charges of armed robbery, kidnapping, and possession of a suspected stolen vehicle.

The second suspect still needs to be apprehended, and the investigation is continuing.
johanvn@diepos.co.za



Sinhle Innocent Nkosi at his first court appearance on 20 May.