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Border operation hailed

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VEHICLE owners who fail to declare their cars as required by law at the Kopfontein border post felt the wrath of the police as they were slapped with spot fines at the weekend.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said Operation Basadi was conducted at Kopfontein Port of Entry and the surrounding area.

"The operation resulted in imposing of fines on seven offenders for various contraventions. The offenders include four that were fined R2500 each for contravention of section 4(1) of Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act No 91 of 1964)," he said.

"That was after establishing that all vehicles with Botswana registration numbers were possessed by drivers with South African drivers licences.

"The vehicles were not reported to the controller or branch manager of the port

as required by the law. All the fines were paid immediately," Mokgwabone said.

It was during the operation that one person was nabbed for possession of dagga while another two were fined for road traffic related offences. One suspected illegal immigrant was taken in for processing by immigration officials.

Provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane, who led the operation, addressed the police, customs and immigration officials, soldiers, the Hawks and traffic police stationed at the border post.

Motswenyane said it was important that all the law enforcement agencies fight against border crimes particularly as Kopfontein is one of the busiest commercial ports, to bring down the levels of illegal crossing of persons and goods, smuggling of vehicles, stock theft, human trafficking and wildlife crimes.

The operation was conducted simultaneously with the police in Botswana.

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