

# Hawks clerk faces graft charges

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THE Hawks in North West arrested one of their own, an administrative clerk based in Mahikeng, on allegations that he leaked sensitive information to the criminal underworld.

Thabo Makweya, 27, appeared in the Mahikeng Magistrate's Court yesterday. He faces charges of corruption and defeating the ends of justice.

The accused was released on R1 000 bail with tough conditions. Makweya has since resigned.

Hawks provincial spokesperson Thangelani Rikhotso said Makweya was arrested following an investigation into a drug related matter.

"During the investigation, it appeared that the Makweya was leaking confiden-

tial information about investigations to the targets in exchange for gratification," Rikhotso said.

"Further investigations led the arresting team to his residence, where confidential documents were seized. He appeared briefly in the Mahikeng Magistrate's Court on March 13 where he was remanded in custody."

The accused told the court he would be relocating from Mmabatho to Pretoria at the end of the month.

The court ordered that he reported to the Pretoria West police station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He is supposed to hand in his passport to the investigating officer as well.

The case will be back in court in May. Hawks head in North West Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said Makweya's arrest

was an eye-opener.

"The fortunate thing is that he was not entrusted with any information but got access because he typed up some of the sensitive details. We have learnt a lesson that even clerks, cleaners and everyone working for us needs to be vetted and above board," she said.

Mbana expressed confidence that the Hawks would secure a conviction and a befitting sentence.

It is not the first time the Hawks have dealt with "rotten apples" among their ranks.

"We recently had to fire an official who while on a raid, decided to help himself to proceeds found in one of the houses and we had to act. It is upon us to clean our house," she said.

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