

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 30 AUGUST 2021

**RE: MAN GRANTED BAIL FOR CHARGE OF INCITEMENT TO COMMIT
PUBLIC VIOLENCE**

Themba Mnisi (43) from De Deur in Vereeniging was granted bail of R40 000 by the Vereeniging Regional Court for a charge of incitement to commit public violence.

It is alleged that on 06 June 2021, Mnisi recorded and posted a voice note on a WhatsApp group calling on people to disarm the police by burning their houses and police vehicles with petrol bombs.

Upon investigations, Mnisi was arrested by the Hawks on 06 August 2021.

The prosecutor, Reuben Chabalala during the bail application proceedings opposed Mnisi's bail stating that, if released on bail, Mnisi would endanger the safety of the public or any particular person because the WhatsApp group he created contains 255 participants.

The state also argued that there is likelihood that Mnisi might evade trial and undermine the proper functioning of the justice system, including bail as Mnisi was able to conduct a radio interview two days after his arrest, whilst in custody. This happened after seven of his cell phones were confiscated. Chabalala added that if Mnisi can secure a phone while in prison and conduct a radio interview, it may be possible for him to secure many more participants and create false accounts and continue the reign of terror.

However, magistrate Phaage granted him bail stating that the court found Mnisi not to be flight risk and ordered him to close all his social media accounts and refrain from any commentary on political issues. He was also asked to report to his nearest police station every Monday and Wednesday.

The matter was postponed to 17 September 2021 for further investigations.

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