



Posbus/P O Box 132, Persequor Park, 0020  
Tel : 012 349 1102 Epos/Email : rpo@lantic.net  
[www.stocktheftprevent.co.za](http://www.stocktheftprevent.co.za)

## **STOCK THEFT PREVENTION FORUM WARNING ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND STATEMENTS**

**Special recognition to : MS ISABEL KRUGER, Chairperson : Free State RPO Stock Theft Forum (STF)**

Social media, has grown to be accepted as the medium or vessel, the unheard turns to when no one seems to listen. This culminates in a situation where the “Cyber” world becomes the audience upon which all these unresolved or unheard “injustices” are off loaded.

However, as easy and accessible as it is, reporting or charges made on social media, unless factually and chronologically correct, and void of slander and malice within the parameters of the law, can often result in very embarrassing, if not worse situations and outcomes.

In light of the perils of careless, thoughtless complaints and accusations, the Free State RPO Stock Theft Forum (STF), wants to caution their members to carefully rethink the cause of their frustration before communicating to/through the media.

Stock theft has a very negative impact on not only the agricultural community, but society at large too. It is therefore understandable that anger and frustration is often the birth child of cases that is either unresolved, or according to the perciever, taking too long. It often results in unanswered, angering questions.

= 2 =

It is for this reason that the Stock Theft Forum, the National Prosecution Authority and SAPS Stock Theft Units have undertaken to always be available to help, assist, guide and appease. The basic procedural discipline that must be followed to get feedback regarding cases would be to contact the investigating officer first. However, access to the STF is always attainable and welcomed.

Complaints must be in writing, and this information must contain the correct information and facts. Perceptions and wrong information will ultimately skew cases to the point where it cannot be recovered

Always be cognisant of the fact that any and all reporting or complaints lodged or placed on the social media platform, can be used in court cases and hearings, and can ultimately cause the complainant a total and sometimes, irrecoverable, loss of credibility. The result of which could be catastrophic.

Reckless, incorrect and emotively laden reporting can cause loss of credibility of the complainant or witness even prior to a court appearance. Reckless media usage can also be used by the representatives of the accused, resulting in even further loss of credibility of the complainant, as it makes the evidence and reporting thereof inconsequential and without substance.

We also advise readers to avoid sharing or forwarding photos or diagrams of crime scenes, unless the case has been heard and processed in court and the accused already been charged. Such actions will definitely hinder or cause undesired outcomes.

Be aware, always, of your responsibility to ensure that firstly your sources are verifiable and that you convey or present accurate information. Familiarise yourself with the boundaries of your rights and freedom of speech within the specifics of the case, and do not venture beyond these.

Another important factor that must be kept in mind is that, should you no longer want to hold to a report or statement you made, to rather not send, share or formalise it as you can be held accountable for it.

The law considers any statement or media report, irrespective of the media type, that has been accessed or read by even just an individual, as published information and therefore prosecutable.

The purpose of this article is to reassure farmers and the farming community as a whole that the Free State RPO Stock Theft Forum pays attention to all inquiries. It is therefore imperative that all reports received in writing be as truthful and accurate as possible, and not perceptive creations that could eventually damage the credibility of the complainant.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the following e-mail should you require further information - [veediefstalrpo@gmail.com](mailto:veediefstalrpo@gmail.com)

Herewith is also the contact details of the stock theft representatives in the other provinces.

<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Freddie van Tonder	<a href="mailto:Fredvantonder60@gmail.com">Fredvantonder60@gmail.com</a>	Cell 083 225 8522
<b>Free State</b>	<b>Chairperson</b> Ms Isabel Kruger	<a href="mailto:Stepbyfaithm@gmail.com">Stepbyfaithm@gmail.com</a>	Cell 082 042 3359
	<b>Vice Chairman</b> Mr Nico Buys	<a href="mailto:Nico@cashnet.co.za">Nico@cashnet.co.za</a>	Cell 083 262 1217
<b>Limpopo</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Douw Pelser	<a href="mailto:douw@trophysafaris.co.za">douw@trophysafaris.co.za</a>	Cell 082 820 5228
<b>Gauteng</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Jaco Taute	<a href="mailto:rpogauteng@gmail.com">rpogauteng@gmail.com</a>	Cell 082 635 2424
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mnr Hennie Laas	<a href="mailto:hlaas@pkmakelaars.co.za">hlaas@pkmakelaars.co.za</a>	Cell 082 401 0868
<b>Northern Cape</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Joe Scholtz	<a href="mailto:ghaap@vodamail.co.za">ghaap@vodamail.co.za</a>	Cell 082 324 9600
	<b>Vice Chairman</b> Mr Frederik van Zyl	<a href="mailto:Aurora@inext.co.za">Aurora@inext.co.za</a>	Cell 083 265 1534
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Alfons van Niekerk	<a href="mailto:Alfonsovn@r63.co.za">Alfonsovn@r63.co.za</a>	Cell 083 277 0793
<b>North West</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Sarel Pretorius	<a href="mailto:Agrimarico@gmail.com">Agrimarico@gmail.com</a>	Cell 082 944 0211
<b>Western Cape</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Jaco van den Berg	<a href="mailto:Jaco@meelberg.co.za">Jaco@meelberg.co.za</a>	Cell 082 806 5742
<b>National</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Mr Willie Clack	<a href="mailto:WClack@unisa.ac.za">WClack@unisa.ac.za</a>	Cell 082 574 653