

Translation of an article appearing in *Rapport* (page 10) on 07 March 2010

Marlene Malan wrote the following:

Court order prevents intimidation from derailing eNaTIS

The work of South Africa's National Traffic Information System (eNaTIS) must continue "without intimidation or threats" by former software employees.

If this does not happen and the eNaTIS software technicians are "wrongfully influenced and prejudiced" it could have "devastating" results for Tasima that operates the system, and for the entire South African transport system.

This according to a judgment in the supreme court in Johannesburg against Face Technologies – a company that until last month developed and operated the eNaTIS software.

A total of 42 of the 62 software technicians attached to Face left the eNaTIS project the end of last month after one of the Tasima consortium partners, arivia.com, sold its interest in the project to Thuthukani Information Technology Services and Webcom Consulting.

In December last year a transition process started during which Face would withdraw from the company and therefore, the eNaTIS. Webcom and Thuthukani, now the only shareholders in the eNaTIS, stated in court that they were seeking "protection against the behaviour of the respondents who started an illegal campaign to try to destroy our business activities, as well as to hijack the strategic personnel".

According to the court papers the respondents "created distrust amongst strategic personnel, and spread untruths about the share of sales process". "They also plan ... to derail Tasima's activities."

Mr Grant Herholdt of the law firm Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs in Johannesburg, who acts for Thuthukani and Webcom, said to Rapport: "The parties agreed that none of the staff members attached to the eNaTIS would be threatened or intimidated. It was also agreed that Face could offer work to the software staff, as long as it does not compete with Webcom and Thuthukani's rights regarding the eNaTIS".

According to Mr Philip van der Merwe, Tasima spokesperson, Webcom and Thuthukani "are not newcomers to the project, but have been fully involved with the eNaTIS from the start". He said that Tasima offered permanent employment to all employees in the company and that 65% of a total of 134 staff members accepted it.

"These staff members will still work on the project. Face made offers to all the staff in the software department to become involved with other projects. Of the 62 staff members in this department 42 accepted Face offers. Face only approached software personnel."

As part of the transition process of shareholders, Van der Merwe says, "task teams ensured that this was done properly".

"All skills loss was addressed". He says Tasima foresees "no significant impact on system development and that because the operational department continues as is system stability is not affected".