

# ‘Unlucky’ hijacker nabbed

A hijacker took one for the team when he was the only one arrested on March 25 whilst he and his gang hijacked a minibus, carrying a cargo of cigarettes and took the driver hostage.

The minibus was hijacked in Laudium, in the West of Pretoria, where after the hijackers headed towards nearby Erasmia.

“The recovery was handled very delicately due to the fact it was a hostage situation and the driver’s life could be at stake although he was

not injured in the hijacking,” says Hannelie Snow, the communications officer for Matrix Vehicle Tracking.

According to the Laudium police spokesperson, Captain Louise Reed, the hijackers encountered a Tshwane metro police officer on his motorbike on the way to Erasmia, where the metro officer, suspecting this could be a hijacking, went to the Erasmia police station for backup.

The police then

found the minibus abandoned on the side of the road in Erasmia with the cargo of about R280 000 worth of cigarettes missing.

“The police air-wing helicopter was deployed for the operation and spotted the suspects as they fled through the veldt and bushes. Whilst the suspects were fleeing, the helicopter spotted the cargo being unloaded from the hijacked minibus,” says Capt Reed.

The helicopter directed the police units

on the ground to where the suspects were hiding and to where the cargo was being held.

In addition to the hijacker that was arrested and charged with hijacking and robbery, another two men and a woman was arrested for the possession of stolen goods, as they were allegedly in possession of the cargo.

“The man arrested for the hijacking is also wanted for questioning in connection with other crimes,” says Capt Reed.

