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Petrol pirates sell at R2 a litre!

By ANIL SINGH

PETROL TRUCK drivers were leaving the depot with a full load but arriving at their destination 1 000 litres short!

They were stealing petrol meant for garages and selling it cheaply.

But their luck ran out yesterday when cops and private investigators caught them red-handed.

The Durban drivers who worked for Thutha Transport were contracted by Total to deliver petrol, but before making a drop-off at a garage, the petrol tankers would go to a warehouse in Bellair, Durban - and 1 000 litres would be pumped into a plastic container.

Drivers would sell the petrol for between R2 and R3 a litre and it was then sold on to some garages for R4 a litre.

When a petrol tanker leaves the refinery, a seal is put on the hoses. So after breaking the seal, the driver would put a new seal and then head to his destination. The garage staff were unaware that they were being short-changed.

On Monday night Alan Kerry, a private investigator from Justice Investigation, discovered that two of the company's trucks had stopped at a warehouse and 1000 litres had been siphoned into a container.

"We took video footage of the whole thing and allowed the first truck to go," Kerry said.

"Then the second truck arrived and a similar thing took place. The cops then moved in and arrested four suspects. This has been going on for a long time. We estimate that about 33 000 litres of petrol has been stolen in this way," he said.

Police are investigating charges of theft.