

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2019

RE: 12 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR FRAUDSTER

Last week, the Durban Commercial Crime Court sentenced Brian Hugh Arthur to 12 years imprisonment for the 30 counts of fraud he committed, amounting to R2.6 million. The accused was also convicted of contravening the Companies Act.

The accused was a financial advisor to pensioners in the South Coast area during the 1980's, where he agreed to handle their financial portfolios and invest their money. However, he abruptly left South Africa in 1994, leaving the complainants without any returns.

He was listed as a wanted person in South Africa as well by Interpol. In 2002, authorities in Miami, Florida realised that he was on a wanted list and deported him to South Africa to stand trial. Between 2002 and 2003, the accused remained in custody but was eventually granted bail by the high court. In 2006, he pleaded not guilty to the charges and the trial has been on the roll ever since. This is due to the various delays by the accused.

Last week, the matter was finally concluded with the accused being convicted of 30 counts of fraud and 5 counts of contravening the Companies Act.

In aggravation of sentence, Senior State Advocate, Nevas Heeralall told the court that the accused had breached the trust of his elderly clients, leaving them devastated when he left the country.

The finalisation of this matter is indicative that the state will go to great lengths to ensure that criminals are brought to court to face the criminal charges against them. The NPA views insurance fraud matters in a serious light. Advocate Nevas is commended for the job well done.

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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