

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: EMPLOYEE THEFT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

A former employee of Enviroserv Waste Management PTY (LTD) South Africa, Andre Johan Wahl was yesterday sentenced to an effective 15 years prison term by the Johannesburg Commercial Crimes Court.

Enviroserv provides certain employees with fleet cards for business purposes. These fleet cards are issued by Westbank a division of Firststrand bank limited. At the time of the commission of the offences, the accused was employed as a regional accountant manager within the fleet/commercial division of Enviroserv from August 2010. The accused's duties included the management of accounts and any other duties allocated to him from line management.

It is during this period that the accused appropriated monies from the business fleet card allocated to him for his own enrichment resulting to several losses suffered by the employer. The accused was convicted of multitudes of offences involving theft of 2, 4 million rand.

Following the conviction of the accused, state advocate Terrence Zitha pleaded with the court to impose a sentence that is just, fair and which fits the crime. Adv Zitha argued that theft is a very serious offence and becomes more distasteful when committed against an employer who entrusted an employee with a responsibility to monitor and be a custodian of the employers' policies and regulations. He requested the court not to lose sight of the fact that the accused abused his position of trust and continued to bite the hand that fed him over a period of time.

Despite taking full responsibility for all the crimes he committed by pleading guilty, the company was deprived of the ownership of the abovementioned money. The state held

the view that direct imprisonment is the only appropriate sentence as it will serve to encourage employees to be loyal and trustworthy to their employers.

The NPA will continue pleading with courts to impose harsh sentences in an attempt to deter employees from this exercise. The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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