

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 25 JANUARY 2016

RE: BUILDING HIJACKER SENTENCED

The Johannesburg Magistrates Court sentenced a building hijacker Sinethemba Mkhumbuzi to an effective 6 year jail term on Friday, 22 January 2016.

Mkhumbuzi was arrested after intensive investigations by the Hawks who were roped in by the City of Johannesburg to probe the increase of building hijackings in the inner city of Johannesburg.

The matter was complex as CIPRO (Registrar of Companies) internet registration system was infiltrated and manipulated to create fictitious and fraudulent Directorship profiles which were in turn used to misrepresent the accused as the body corporate and/or agent of buildings he never owned, to unsuspecting property prospectors.

The accused defrauded CIPRO, Property magnates and the Johannesburg Deeds office an estimated amount of 4,2 million and was convicted on two counts of fraud and one count of theft after a four year long trial. The accused has been in custody for the past six years due to his delaying tactics that led to amongst others, the recusal of Regional Magistrate Hein Louw.

State Advocate Aiden Maharaj argued that drastic action needs to be taken in order to eradicate illegal dispossession of properties that leads to illegal occupation of buildings within the Central Business District of Johannesburg. He further argued that this kind of crime poses a serious threat to potential property investors and property ownership or entrepreneurship. Advocate Maharaj maintained that the courts are well positioned to play a pivotal role of protecting the economy of the country by harshly dealing with those who want to declare the city ungovernable.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw

Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng

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