

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 01 JUNE 2016**

**RE: FORMER CITY OF CAPE TOWN MUNICIPALITY EMPLOYEE  
SENTENCED FOR CORRUPTION**

The Bellville Specialised Commercial Crimes Court has sentenced a former City of Cape Town Municipality employee to three years direct imprisonment after he was convicted on a charge of corruption. David van der Vent worked as an energy dispenser erector. On 08 April 2014, Yusuf Solomons, a home owner in New Woodlands, Mitchells Plain, logged a complaint about a broken key pad on the pre-paid electricity box. Van der Vent contacted Solomons and informed him that the electricity in the pre-paid box has been by-passed and that the owner owed about R10 000 as bypassing electricity was illegal.

Solomons had previously rented the property but as the owner he was liable to pay the electricity bill. The next day he received another call from the accused who informed him that an amount of R3600 would solve his problems and that he would also scrap the payment owed as a result of bypassing electricity.

Solomons then reported the accused's conduct to the Municipality Fraud hotline. A trap was set for the accused and Sergeant Jansen and Constable Josias from the Metro Police were set up as agents in addition to the home owner. Sergeant Jansen would be present with Solomons pretending to be his friend whilst Constable Josias would hide in a room in the house.

The accused called Solomons again on 17 April 2014 and continued with his offer and Solomons agreed. The accused arrived at the house and proceeded to fix the pre-paid box. After finishing his work, the accused asked for his money and Solomons gave it to him. It is at this stage that Sergeant Jansen introduced himself to the accused as a police

officer and Constable Josias also came out of the room. The accused was thus arrested and charged with corruption.

Advocate Xolile Jonas who successfully prosecuted the case said the accused was charged and convicted on corrupt activities relating to public officers (accepting a gratification).

He further elaborated: "The accused was a public officer and a person who is party to an employment relationship, both as defined in section 1 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 12 of 2004 ("the Act").

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**DPP Western Cape: Spokesperson**

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