

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 01 JUNE 2016**

**RE: UGANDAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT FOR FRAUD**

The East London Regional Court sentenced Mukasa Nitzar from Uganda on 27 May 2016 to five years direct imprisonment for fraud. It is alleged in court papers that the accused met the complainant, Ntombizanele Qongqo in February 2014 after a visit to the pension fund office in Bhisho. The accused introduced himself as Kingdom Odongo and offered her a lift from Bhisho to Zwelitsha.

The accused also told the complainant that he was an employee of the pension fund, who frequently assisted people to ensure that their pension benefits are paid out speedily. At his request the complainant furnished him with her persal number, full names and cellular number so that he could facilitate and expedite the payment of her pension fund benefits from the pension fund. After a couple of days the accused informed her that the pension fund had made a payment into her account and this was confirmed by the complainant that indeed she had R700 000.00 in her bank account.

Between 17 and 18 February 2014 the accused took the complainant to a house in which he claimed the fathers would reveal themselves to her and "purify" her money and increase it to R20 000 000.00. After this the accused persuaded the complainant by putting a single R100 bank note into an empty bag, instructed her to take off her shoes and close her eyes so as to avoid being blind at the appearance of the fathers. A person spoke in Zulu with the complainant and claimed that he was an ancestor. The accused instructed the complainant to open her eyes after the Zulu speaking person had gone out the house and she observed that the bag, which had only one R100 note, was full with bank notes.

She then proceeded to the bank to withdraw R300 000.00 and gave it to the accused for the fathers to cleanse and increase it. At this instance she was ordered to transfer all the money she had into the bank account of the accused and again the Zulu speaking voice was there and she was also told to switch off the lights. The promised R20 000 000.00 NEVER materialised nor was the complainant paid back her R550 000.00.

The accused was arrested by the police and he was found in possession of South African counterfeit bank notes and United Nations forged stamp and forged driving license of the Republic of Uganda as well as a forged instruction manual on how to cleanse bank notes purporting to be from the United Nations to SA. He was charged and sentenced on the following counts: count 1 –theft, count 2 – unlawful possession of counterfeit RSA Bank Notes, count 3 – forgery and uttering of a driving license, count 4 & 5 – forgery and uttering of United Nations stamp. He was handed down various sentences on all the counts to run concurrently but 5 years direct imprisonment was imposed by the court. Advocate Thenjwa Sellem based in the NPA East London office represented the state.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Tsepo Ndwalaza**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP PE & Grahamstown**

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