

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: BOGUS POLICEMAN SENTENCED FOR FORGERY & FRAUD

Last week, the Bellville Specialised Crimes Court sentenced a bogus police officer to 18 years imprisonment after he pretended to be a former police officer awaiting his pension money and swindled the victims of R452 900 worth of money and goods.

Michael McDonald Jantjies is not a retired police officer and was never a police officer. The 52 year old conman first proposed love to his victims while some were his friends. He then showed them bogus South African Police Service (SAPS) Certificates of Appreciation or SAPS Employee of the Month Certificates. He would then tell his victims that he was a retiring Colonel in the SAPS, he was awaiting his SAPS pension monies which were due to him. He told them that he required money in order to withdraw the said pension monies and that he would reimburse the advances his victims gave when he receives his pension monies.

They believed him and he not only took their monies but their vehicles, jewellery, cellphones, laptops and travel bag. He was arrested but repeated his crooked ways after he was granted bail. He changed areas with his scheme as some of his victims are from far areas like Stilbaai, Riviersonderend, Somerset West and Ladismith. Locals were also not safe from this cunning man. He had victims in Lansdowne, Parow, Cape Town and Ravensmead.

Fortunately, the state has smart prosecutors. After his arrest on 13 January 2017 and charged with 30 counts including forgery, fraud, theft and misrepresenting as a retiring SAPS colonel (contraventions of sections 68(1) of the SAPS Act), the state successfully opposed bail.

Advocate Jannie Knipe of the Bellville Specialised Crimes Court says: "We successfully opposed bail as he was repeating the same offences while granted bail on similar

offences of forgery, fraud, theft and misrepresenting as a retiring SAPS colonel (contraventions of sections 68(1) of the SAPS Act). Although this matter does not strictly fall within our mandate, we decided and made a request to the SAPS for us to deal with the same in order to ensure a successful outcome on all the various matters which up to then had been running in different courts in the Western Cape, and we agreed it would be in the interest of justice to centralise all the cases on our roll. Finally faced with the combined charges and a potentially lengthy trial while incarcerated, the accused opted for entering into the plea and sentence agreement in terms of which he was convicted and sentenced”.

The court sentenced Jantjies to 4 counts of forgery and 10 counts of fraud (amounting to R452 500); 12 years imprisonment, half of which suspended; 9 counts of contravening section 68(1) of the SAPS Act: 2 years imprisonment (to be served concurrently with the sentence imposed in paragraph 1 above); 1 count of fraud and 6 counts of fraud (amounting to R185 000); 4 years imprisonment (to be served concurrently with the sentence imposed in paragraph 1 above).

Advocate Knipe has added that the types of offences committed by Jantjies were serious and prevalent at the Bellville Specialised Crimes Court and impact severely on the victims. He committed them over a period of time (two years) which gave him an opportunity to reflect on the wrongfulness of his actions. The detection of the crimes were difficult and resulted in an extensive and laborious investigation and that the accused had previous convictions for similar offences.

Jantjies asked the victims for forgiveness for the offences he committed “while being possessed by what he experienced as some diabolical evil spirit”.

The accused will serve six years direct imprisonment as the court ordered the above sentences to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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