

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: CERES CHILD SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT

Yesterday, the Worcester Regional Court sentenced child sex offender, Johannes Deyssel (34) to ten years direct imprisonment after convicting him on unlawful possession of child pornography, unlawful creation of child pornography and unlawful importing or procuring child pornography.

The Ceres mechanic was arrested following an international co-operation between South Africa and the United States of America. The South African Police Service received an investigative lead from the cyber-crimes child exploitation investigations unit of the Homeland Security Investigations, Tampa, Florida, USA. The unit identified Deyssel as a suspect in September 2016. On 03 August 2017, W/O Geldenhuys of the Provincial Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS), Gauteng (Serial and Electronic crimes Investigations) obtained a search and seizure warrant that was executed on the same day at the residential property of the accused.

Police found 16 799 images of child pornography and 800 video clips also containing child pornography. This material was stored in computers and CDs. Experts from the Teddy Bear Foundation were called to view the images and compiled a report that declared that the images were within the ambit of the definition of child pornography.

The accused was charged with unlawful possession of child pornography, unlawful creation of child pornography and unlawful importing or procuring child pornography. As evidence mounted against him, the accused confessed to the police and then entered into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state.

State prosecutor, Cindy Abdol, who finalised the agreement, told the court that child pornography related offences were not easily detected. "Due to the serious nature of the

offence, courts are encouraged to impose appropriate sentences. The offences committed by the accused are most serious in nature and preys on the most vulnerable in society. These offences are abhorrent, shocking and results in public outrage. Every image reflects the sexual violation of and the impairment of the dignity of a child every time the image is viewed. Though unknown in identity to the state, it cannot be disputed that these minor victims will bear emotional scars of their abuse for life. Courts have an obligation in imposing sentences which reflects the natural outrage and revulsion felt by law abiding members of society and a failure to do so will have the effect of eroding public confidence in the criminal justice system."

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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