

PRESS RELEASE



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: CHINESE MEN TO BE DEPORTED FOLLOWING ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ABALONE

Yesterday, the Khayelitsha Priority Crimes Court two Chinese nationals on four charges related to illegal processing and possession of abalone and being in South Africa illegally.

Liuyi Lin and Gui Kang Yang were convicted for operating a fish-processing establishment without a permit, illegal possession of abalone, illegal transportation of abalone and illegally remaining in South Africa after their visitor's permits expired. As part of their plea bargain with the state, they were sentenced to six months imprisonment and will forfeit R75 000 to the state and a Mercedes Benz ML 350. The court ordered that the R75 000 be paid into the bank account of the Department of Justice and the Mercedes Benz ML 350, valued at R150 000, be auctioned and the money deposited into the bank account of the Criminal Asset Recovery Account.

Lin, 32, told the court that he entered South Africa on 17 July 2019 on a visitor's permit that expired on 3 August 2019. He remained in South Africa in contravention of the Immigration Act. Yang, 27, also entered the country on a visitor's permit on 28 November 2018. He was granted an extension to 25 February 2019. He also contravened the Immigration Act by remaining in the country after the permit expired. On 27 August 2019, the police raided their workplace and arrested them.

Advocate John Damon says the accused enabled the illegal abalone trade by operating a fish-processing establishment and processing the abalone for export purposes. He told the court: "Cases of abalone occur frequently in the jurisdiction of this court. A large quantity of abalone was seized – 3 939 units of dried abalone and 6 853 unit of wet abalone – which were clearly not for personal consumption but for the commercial purpose or exporting and selling."

The accused have bought plane tickets which they showed to the Department of Correctional Services. They are going to be fetched from prison and taken to the airport where they will be deported to their country of origin.

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