

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 04 JUNE 2021

RE: FRAUDSTER SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

The Durban Specialised Commercial Crimes court sentenced Ashish Lata Ramgobin (56) to seven years imprisonment after she was convicted of fraud and forgery and uttering, to the amount of R6.2 million. The complainant, New Africa Alliance Footwear Distributors (NAAFD), is an importer, manufacturer and wholesaler of clothing, linen and footwear. The company also partners with other companies on a profit-share basis when finance is needed.

In August 2015, Ramgobin met with Maharaj, the director of NAAFD. She told him that she (via her company, Global Services) had imported three containers of linen for the NetCare group. She was experiencing financial difficulties to pay for import costs and customs and she needed the money to clear the goods at the harbour. She advised him that she needed R6.2 million. To convince him, she showed him what claimed to be a signed purchase order for the goods.

In return for the loan, Ramgobin promised to pay back the total amount and give him a share of the profits, amounting to R1.5 million. Maharaj agreed to lend her the money and they entered into a written agreement where he paid her two instalments of R1.3 million each.

Later that month, she sent him what seemed to be a NetCare invoice and delivery note as proof that the goods were delivered and payment was eminent. She further sent him confirmation from NetCare's bank account that payment had been made.

However, Maharaj soon discovered that Ramgobin did not have any purchase order with NetCare, nor did NetCare owe her any money. In fact, NetCare had absolutely no dealing with Ramgobin in this regard. All the documents provided by Ramgobin were forgeries.

She was subsequently arrested and following the trial, sentenced accordingly.

The Senior State Advocate, Wendy Obrien successfully opposed Ramgobin's application for leave to appeal and the magistrate refused leave to appeal both the conviction and sentence.

The NPA welcomes the successful finalisation of this matter.

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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