

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 13 FEBRUARY 2019**

**RE: FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT TERM FOR SMUGGLING EXPLOSIVES**

Nqobizitha Ncube (30) was convicted of possession of explosives and importation of explosives into South Africa by the Musina Regional Court and sentenced to 15 years on each count.

The accused was arrested on 26 September 2018 in the company of Marvellous Jore (42) and Musina Shoko (47) when customs officials at the Beit Bridge border post searched their vehicle. Ncube and company were travelling from Zimbabwe to South Africa at the time.

During the search, the police found a significant number of hidden explosives inside her vehicle with an estimated street value of 200 000.

The accused pleaded guilty and was accordingly convicted. In aggravation of sentence the State Prosecutor, Patricia Dorothy Jacobs emphasized that the offence was serious with 15 years' imprisonment sentence for a first offender. She also pointed that the offence was prevalent in the border post of Limpopo. She highlighted that there are several cases involving explosives that were reported. She referred to the evidence of Colonel Swarts who is an explosives expert who earlier testified that the kind of explosives were used in commission of ATM bombings and Cash-In-Transit offences.

The Musina Regional Court convicted Ncube whilst her two co-accused were acquitted. She was sentenced to an effective 15 years imprisonment for both counts.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang**

**DPP Limpopo**

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