

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 03 DECEMBER 2019

**RE: FORMER POLICE CLERK SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS FOR
CORRUPTION**

On Wednesday, 03 December 2019, the Mthatha Regional Court sentenced Nontsikelelo Mancoba (47) to five years direct imprisonment after convicting her on a charge of corruption.

Evidence presented in court reveals that Mancoba was employed by the South African Police Service (SAPS) as a clerk in the Fingerprints Section, stationed in Mthatha. On 20 August 2015, Mancoba was performing her duties when a member of the public came to her office wanting to enquire about how she could have her criminal record expunged. The woman was seeking employment as a security guard and Mancoba took advantage of her situation, as she could not be employed with her criminal record.

Mancoba demanded that the desperate woman bring R5000 if she wanted to have "clean fingerprints" but the woman said she could not raise such an exorbitant amount. Mancoba then reduced her demand to R3000, after which the complainant decided to approach the SAPS Organised Crime Unit. Consequently, a trap was set in terms of Section 252 (A) of the Criminal Procedure Act. The complainant was given trap money to hand over to Mancoba, who had asked that the exchange take place in the toilets of the 11th floor SAPS offices in PRD Building. Investigators pounced on Mancoba soon after receiving the money and she was arrested. Following her arrest, she resigned from the SAPS.

During trial, she pleaded not guilty denying ever taking possession of the money, despite there being a video footage of her in the act. Advocate Mtutuzeli Rangula, for the state, managed to convince the court of Mancoba's guilt and prayed for a direct imprisonment term to be imposed. "Corruption and other crimes of dishonesty on the part of officials in the public service have become one of the most serious threats to our country's wellbeing and have to be characterised as a pandemic that requires drastic efforts to

combat”, argued Adv. Rangula. Magistrate Sizakele Sihlahla concurred with the state in spite of the defence’s pleas for an imposition of a fine.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

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