

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

RE: FORMER SALESMAN SENTENCED FOR THEFT

Last week Friday, the Nelspruit Regional Court convicted and sentenced Mark Donovan Bezuidenhout (45) to 10 years imprisonment for defrauding his employer over R 5 million.

Between January 2011 and June 2014, Bezuidenhout and Marie Niewenhys (35), conspired to defraud Imperial Toyota. Bezuidenhout sold 19 vehicles to various customers. The customers would unknowingly deposit money into his personal bank account. Accused 2 assisted by covering up the transactions and handing over fake statements to Imperial's financial manager.

Toyota suffered a huge loss of R 5 051 778, 18, investigations were initiated and the accused Bezuidenhout was arrested.

The accused pleaded guilty to 19 counts of fraud and confirmed that he had no right or permission to steal the said money. Advocate Peter Serunye led evidence of his employers in aggravation of sentence. His employers were extremely disappointed with the accused since they had trusted him.

The Accused was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Six years of the said sentence was suspended for a period of five (5) years. The charges against Accused 2 were withdrawn because he had co-operated with the police and turned state witness.

The sentence will send a strong message to other would be perpetrators that crime does not pay.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

mnyuswa@npa.gov.za

DPP Mpumalanga Spokesperson

013 7526944