

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FRAUDSTER SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS

Last week, the Mthatha Regional Court sentenced Munyaradzi Milton Masiya (43) to eight years imprisonment after he was convicted on six counts of fraud amounting to R69 000.

Evidence presented in court is that Masiya, a Zimbabwean national who resided in Pretoria, travelled to Mthatha and Port St Johns during the period between August and December 2015. Upon his arrival, he targeted other foreign nationals particularly from Nigeria and Ghana whose passports and permits to reside in South Africa were about to expire. He made them believe that he could facilitate issuing of authentic permanent resident permits with an official at Home Affairs headquarters in Pretoria. He collected amounts ranging from R6 500 to R15 000 for his "services" from the unsuspecting victims.

When the fraudster failed to deliver on his promise, one of the victims opened a case with the police. An ensuing investigation led to the arrest of Masiya in possession of the expired passports belonging to his victims. During the trial, Masiya pleaded not guilty but evidence led by Senior State Advocate, Mtutuzeli Rangula, including that of victims and bank account holders into which the monies were deposited, convinced the court that Masiya was guilty as charged. The state argued for a harsh sentence due to the prevalence of fraud relating to issuing of identity documents and permanent resident documents, which have a ripple effect on crime in general in South Africa.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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