

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 06 MARCH 2017

RE: HEFTY SENTENCES FOR FRAUD

The North West High Court sitting in Rustenburg sentenced Brian Dennis Viljoen and Hilton Robert Boyce to lengthy periods behind bars. Both accused were charged with fraud and money laundering involving more than R25 million.

Sharon Boyce, the life partner of Viljoen and mother of Robert Boyce, was employed by Eagles Rock Feed Mill as a creditor's Clerk and between May 2011 and September 2014 she defrauded the law firm of more than R25 million. Money was transferred from the Eagles Rock bank account to that of Viljoen and Boyce. Sharon Boyce was aware that they were not suppliers to Eagles Rock. Furthermore, Brian Dennis Viljoen was aware of the fraudulent transactions whereas Sharon Boyce actively assisted her in altering invoices. They both benefitted from her actions; Viljoen bought properties, cattle and expensive items.

The fraud was discovered when Viljoen and Boyce submitted Viljoen's bank statements to Eagles Rock in order to claim pension benefits.

When addressing the court, Advocate Jeanette Neveling from Specialised Commercial Crime Unit urged the court not to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence. She argued that the crimes were not induced by poverty or need; that the community had enough of large scale crimes of dishonesty and that the crimes were committed over a long period and that numerous transactions were involved.

She argued further that white collar criminals should not be permitted a soft landing. She said there was a remarkable lack of insight into the gravity of their offences and that the accused showed no trace of remorse. The court sentenced Brian Dennis Viljoen to an effective period of 20 years and Sharon Boyce to 15 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego

Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West

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