

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: 21 FEBRUARY 2020

RE: HUSBAND AND WIFE DUO SENTENCED FOR FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Today, the Durban Commercial Crime Court sentenced Sashin Sewpersadh and his wife Chantal for their involvement in defrauding several people of approximately R10 500 000 (ten million and five hundred thousand rand) during the period of 2016 to 2017.

In October last year, Mr. Sewpersadh pleaded guilty to 29 counts of Fraud, 4 counts of theft and 29 counts of contravening the Attorneys Act. In committing some of the offences, the accused purported to be an attorney/conveyancer and convinced the complainants that he had the permission to sell certain properties in Phoenix and Umhlanga. He told them that their payments to him would facilitate the transfer of ownership of these properties to them. However, these properties were not for sale, nor did the accused have any consent to advertise or sell them.

His wife pleaded guilty to five counts of money laundering.

The accused also pretended to be agents for the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and convinced one of the complainants that they could assist her with the payment of monies she owed SARS.

In one instance, the accused pretended to be insurance brokers and had complainants deposit money into their bank account.

In aggravation of sentence, senior state advocate Ranjini Govender told the court that the accuseds' guilty plea is not necessarily indicative of remorse. She also asked the court to consider that the accuseds' actions were premeditated and carefully planned. They were not lured into the commission of the crime, but made the initiative themselves.

Accused 1 was sentenced to 15 years direct imprisonment and accused 2 was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in terms of Section 276 (1) (i) of the Criminal Procedure Act where she will serve 10 months in prison and thereafter be put into various programs meant to address the offences committed.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Adv. Elaine Zungu welcomes the sentence. "Sentences of this nature show how seriously the courts view crimes of fraud and money laundering. Congratulations to the team involved in this successful prosecution."

Natasha Kara
Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN
Enquiries: nramkisson@npa.gov.za
0716700229