

PRESS RELEASE



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED FOR FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

A 40 year-old man and his 39 year-old wife were yesterday sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and correctional supervision, respectively after they were convicted on 24 counts of fraud and 24 counts of money laundering by the Free State High Court.

Judge Sharon Chesuwe sentenced Scott Brown to a total of 600 years after she handed him a prison term of 15 years for each count of fraud and 10 years for each count of money laundering. She however, ordered the sentences to run concurrently, handing Brown an effective 15 year jail term.

Brown's wife, Zelda Maddock was sentenced to five years for fraud but the sentence was wholly suspended for a period of five years. She was also sentenced to 36 months correctional supervision for money laundering.

According to evidence presented in court, Brown used his company, Zelchem Trading to defraud complainants of their livestock. He approached various complainants and told them that he wanted to buy livestock from them. He promised them payments of the livestock that was released to his company. The complainants gave him their livestock but he failed to pay them back. He in turn, sold the livestock for lesser amount. His wife was the member of the company

He lied to the complainants that he did not receive the payment for the livestock, whilst he had already been paid. He further requested the complainants to give him more money to feed the livestock. He defrauded the complainants of livestock worth R8.6 million and failed to pay them back.

State Prosecutor Vic De Bruyn stated in court that the accused's mission was to defraud the complainants because when he realised that he was not in a position to pay them back, he requested them to extend the period in which they had to be paid.

"The accused lied to the complainants that the buyers of meat from Zelchem Trading did not pay for the cattle he got from them and asked for a second load of cattle when he was aware that he will not be able to honour the agreement to pay them. They trusted him with their cattle but he took advantage of their trust and used their money for his own benefit. They lost R8.6 million as a result of the accused's fraudulent actions" said De Bruyn.

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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