

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

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RE: MOTHER GETS SENTENCED IN FAKE BABY KIDNAPPING

A 35-year-old woman from Mayville was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in the Durban Regional Court yesterday after pleading guilty to fraud, making a false statement and defeating the ends of justice. She was sentenced under Section 276 (1) (i) of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, where she will serve out one-sixth of her sentence (10 months effectively) before being considered for parole.

In her plea, the woman detailed how in March 2017 she defrauded the South African Police Service (SAPS) by saying that she was hijacked and her minor child (one month old) was taken with the car by the attacker. The woman admitted that she had actually acted together with her co-accused and that there was no robbery with aggravating circumstances or kidnapping.

After numerous interviews with members of the investigating team, the woman revealed that she knew the whereabouts of the missing baby. The baby was recovered a day later at the Marian Hill Toll Plaza in the custody of the biological father.

Details emerged in court that the reason for the hoax was that the accused discovered that the baby was a result of her extra marital affair with her lover and co-accused. She feared that her husband would discover the child was not his. She admitted that she and her co-accused hatched the plan to have the baby taken away by him.

In aggravation of sentence, Regional Court Prosecutor Kuveshni Pillay led the testimony of a SAPS official who explained to the court the extent to which the police went to locate the baby. A nationwide search was launched utilising their manpower and resources. The various units dispatched included the Durban dog unit, Crime intelligence, Search and rescue, KZN war room and the Child protection unit.

Further, Miss Pillay told the court that the accused's action had resulted in a huge community outcry with organisations and security companies offering cash rewards for the baby's return. She said that the financial implication of the wasted resources and costs on the accused's false claims of crime are immeasurable and had impacted negatively on the police resources in the fight against serious priority crime.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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