

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 08 APRIL 2019**

**RE: POLICE OFFICIAL GETS FIVE YEARS FOR FRAUD**

A police official working as an administrative clerk at Navalsig Police Station in Bloemfontein was on Friday sentenced to five years direct imprisonment after he was found guilty on two counts of fraud by the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court. Magistrate Marina Vogens sentenced Daniel Mashaba Jobo for defrauding the South African Police Service (SAPS) through subsistence and traveling (S & T) allowance.

According to evidence presented in court, Jobo pretended he had permission to use a state vehicle to attend the SAPS National Pool Championship competition in Johannesburg between 17 and 24 January 2017. He was informed by his commander that he cannot use a state vehicle to attend the competitions as the vehicle was needed to perform police duties.

He however, fraudulently completed an itinerary and without the knowledge of his supervisors, entered the registration numbers of one of the vehicles allocated to the Navalsig Detective Unit. He used the vehicle to attend the championships. He returned to Bloemfontein on 25 January 2017 but did not return the vehicle to the Navalsig Police Station. He parked it at Kagisanong Police Station so that his supervisors would not see that he is back from Johannesburg.

Jobo further used the state vehicle to travel from Bloemfontein to Clocolan and Botshabelo to visit his wife and friends, respectively. These trips were private in nature and he used the petrol card allocated to the vehicle to refuel to the amount of R1635.80. He returned the vehicle to the Navalsig Police Station on 30 January 2017.

Upon his return to work, he filed a claim for subsistence and travelling allowance for travelling to Johannesburg from the championship. He falsely pretended in his claim that he was at the championship from 17 January until 2 February 2017. He did not mention

that he came back on 25 January. He thus claimed an extra R2883.00 that was not due to him.

In his defence, Jobo stated that he had permission to use drive vehicle and his supervisors gave him the said permission. He also claimed that the finance clerk instructed him to claim for the whole period and then make arrangement for the excess to be deducted from his salary.

In aggravation, State Prosecutor, Advocate Jacques Potgieter, argued that the accused's actions were premeditated and he did not show any remorse because he tried to blame his wrong doing on the finance clerk.

"Although the monetary value of the offences was low, it was very serious in nature as he is a government official. Due to the endemic nature and prevalence of corruption in the public service, the court has to send a strong message that these offences will not be tolerated. What was also aggravating is that the vehicle could not be used for crime prevention and investigation during that period, in a time when state resources are already spread thin" concluded Potgieter.

Magistrate Vogens described Jobo as a poor witness whose version could not be believed. She took both counts together for purposes of sentencing and imposed a five years direct imprisonment term on the accused.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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