

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: SARS FRAUDSTER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS

Tahir Mohammed Ismail (40) was on Monday, 08 April sentenced to five years imprisonment in the Durban Regional Court, after pleading guilty to fraud and money laundering.

During the period 2010 to 2011, the accused who was a trainee accountant, submitted income tax returns for members of the community where he created fictitious expenses, resulting in the South African Revenue Services (SARS) paying out refunds.

In most of the instances, he used bank accounts that he controlled for deposit of these refunds. The accused thereafter gave the individuals a small percentage of the refunds and kept the rest for himself and his accomplices. The SARS paid out refunds amounting to R5.3 million.

In aggravation of sentence, Senior State Advocate Selvan Govender told the court that the accused committed the crime out of greed. He said he had a promising career as a trainee accountant, earning R5 000 per month but decided to indulge in a life of crime and used his unlawful gains to purchase a car for R400 000 cash and rented property at an upmarket estate, at R25 000 per month.

The accused advised the court that he could only access about R3 million of the R5.3 million and in addition to the sentence, agreed to pay back the money in monthly instalments of R10 000.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal, Advocate Moipone Noko welcomes the sentence. She said, "Sentences of this nature will go a long way in conveying the

message that crime does not pay. The repayments, albeit in instalments, will go back to the taxpayer. Congratulations to the prosecution on a job well done.”

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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