

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 16 APRIL 2021**

**RE: STATE GETS TOUGHER JAIL TERM ON PROSECUTOR'S APPEAL**

A district court prosecutor in the Kimberley Magistrates' Court, Anele Kohlani (36), was arrested during an operation by SAPS after he accepted R1 500 in cash to withdraw a criminal charge of assault against the complainant in this case.

He was convicted on a charge of corruption in October 2018 and sentenced on 28 March 2019 to a fine of R60 000 or three-years imprisonment and a further two years imprisonment suspended for a period of five years on condition that he is not found guilty of corruption or theft during the period of suspension.

He was granted leave to appeal by the High Court of South Africa: Northern Cape Division against the sentence.

The court made the following observation in considering the sentence: "A prosecutor stands in a special position in relation to the court and the public he/she serves. Participation in any corrupt activities by officers of the court brings ignominy to the legal profession and is deserving of censure. A stern warning should be sounded that officers of court who engage in corrupt activities shall be visited upon with the full might of law."

The court found that the sentence imposed by the magistrate was disturbingly inappropriate, justifying interference with the sentence. The court sentenced him to six years imprisonment of which two years were conditionally suspended for five years.

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