

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 08 MARCH 2017

RE: SON AND MOM SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING THE UNIVERSITY

The North West High Court sentenced Bradley Freeman to 15 years direct imprisonment whilst his mother, Judick Ann Freeman got 10 years, wholly suspended for 5 years.

Bradley Freeman is the former Senior Financial Officer at the University of North West, Mahikeng campus. In October 2015, Bradley and his parents Gert Rayman Freeman and Judick Ann Freeman were arrested and formally charged with 34 counts of fraud and 35 counts of money laundering.

Bradley was a beneficiary of the JR Freeman Family Trust which Judick was a trustee. Bradley informed certain service providers of the North West University and other entities who had business relationship with the university that the banking details have changed. He gave out his personal account instead and the service providers paid the money into his account.

Amongst these service providers was, Edu loan [Pty] Ltd, a development credit provider that supplies educational loans to the university students, Crail Service Station which rented the canteen from the university selling food and beverages, Assmang Ltd, a mining company which assisted students with loans and Sasol Inzalo Foundation which had science fellowship programme to provide finance to students who enrolled for Honours or Masters in Chemistry at the university. During that period an amount of R17, 769, 064. 46 was transferred through different transactions into his account.

He utilised the money and took cash amounts for his own personal benefit and acquired various fixed properties, vehicles and other personal goods for the family trust.

The state entered into Plea and Sentence Agreement in terms of Section 105A of Act 51 of 1977. Bradley's father, Gert was acquitted in all charges whilst Bradley and his mother pleaded guilty.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Wessel Van Biljon stated that the offence was serious in nature and the accused benefitted handsomely. He said crimes were planned and committed over a long period of time.

Through the Asset Forfeiture Unit the state managed to recover assets from the accused to the value of R11, 120, 032.85 and the complainant was compensated with the amount of R8.4 million.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, North West, Advocate Johan Smit SC congratulated both Advocate Wessel Van Biljon and Sergeant Letsoku from Mahikeng Commercial crime unit for a job well done.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego

Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West

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