

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

DATE: 07 JULY 2017

**RE: SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR FRAUD**

Last week, the Bellville Commercial Crimes Court sentenced Lucille Felicity Booth to eight years imprisonment of which three years has been suspended for a period of five years on condition that she is not convicted of fraud, theft and any attempt during the period of suspension.

The court ordered that the 55 year -old mother of two is unfit to possess a firearm. Booth was employed by the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation (SARGF) as a bookkeeper and administrative assistance at the Cape Town office since early last year when she committed the 41 counts of fraud over a period of two years.

Her daily responsibilities included paying creditors and third party invoices, controlling the SARGF's cashbook and handling of petty cash.

It was discovered during an external financial audit of the SARGF that the accused requested several unauthorised payments from the company bank account into her personal bank accounts. She succeeded in obtaining the monies, with ostensible legal authority by changing the banking information of the various creditors on Word version of their invoices on the system after payments were made to them to reflect her respective banking details after which undue payments were electronically transferred by the auditors of SARGF into her personal bank accounts. The payments totalled R500 764.

Advocate Denzyl Combrink who finalised the plea and sentencing agreement said: "The accused was in a position of trust which she gravely abused to the detriment of her employer and this caused the employer reputational damage. The nature and gravity of the offences are serious."

Advocate Combrink added that the accused received a reduced sentence because she showed remorse by pleading guilty from the onset, co-operated with the police and her willingness to finalise the matter was a genuine sign of remorse. She was a first time offender.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

Enquiries: entabazalila@npa.gov.za

073 062 1222