

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: 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

RE: TAYOB SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

A 63 year-old woman, Shahida Bibi Mohamed Tayob, was convicted and sentenced today by the Specialised Commercial Crimes Court in Pretoria.

Tayob faced 28 charges ranging from possession of proceeds of unlawful activities, contravention of the Value Added Tax Act (making false statements to obtain VAT refunds), reckless or fraudulent carrying on of business of a corporation and contravention of the Income Tax Act (failure to submit personal and business income tax returns).

The accused and her husband, Ahmed Tayob evaded arrest and fled the country during December 2009, when they were to be prosecuted. Ahmed Tayob died in April 2011 and the accused remained in self-inflicted exile in Dubai for the remainder of the time until her return. She was arrested on 12 September 2018, upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport from Dubai.

A plea agreement in terms of section 105A (1) of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 was successfully entered into with the Specialist Tax Unit at the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Pretoria.

Tayob was sentenced to a term of 10 years' imprisonment, suspended for a period of 5 years for the possession of proceeds of unlawful activities; 3 years imprisonment wholly suspended for a period of 5 years for the making of false statements to obtain VAT refunds (22 counts); a fine of R2 000 or 12 months imprisonment for the reckless or fraudulent carrying on of business of a corporation and a fine of R2 000 or 12 months imprisonment on each of the counts for failure to submit income tax returns.

The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) obtained a restraint order on the property of the accused and R1 573.32 21 was ordered payable to the state by the High Court of South Gauteng Division, Pretoria on 21 February 2018.

The NPA commends Senior State Advocate, Desire Rosenblatt from the NPA Tax Unit in Pretoria, the vigilance of law enforcement authorities that effected the arrest and the AFU for ensuring that the state recovers the proceeds of crime.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw Mjonondwane
Regional Manager: DPP South Gauteng
011 220 4245/083 402 4787
hlouw@npa.gov.za