

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 17 AUGUST 2017

RE: THREE RECEIVE HEFTY SENTENCES FOR DEFRAUDING SARS

Three people were sentenced to 95 years imprisonment by the Johannesburg High Court yesterday, 16 August 2017, for defrauding SARS in excess of R220 million.

Anton Meyer, Garth Allan Coetser and Clifford Stevens were sentenced to an effective term of 25 years imprisonment, after Acting Judge M Klein ordered the sentences for forgery (25 year imprisonment), uttering (25 years imprisonment) and money laundering (20 years imprisonment) runs concurrently with the sentence for fraud (25 years imprisonment). The trio were found guilty of submitting fraudulent claims in respect of 18 companies amounting to more than R200 million to SARS between 2007 to 2010 resulting in them being convicted on 356 counts.

The prosecution team consisting of Advocate Marius Oosthuizen and Nerissa Reddy, from the Tax Unit of the NPA operating from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Johannesburg and SARS's Criminal investigator, Riaan Engelbrecht, successfully concluded the matter after a trial of two and a half years.

"The NPA remains committed in dealing with persons who defraud SARS as these are funds due to ordinary citizens of our country and these kind of crimes negatively impact on government objectives to improve the lives of South African citizens" said Advocate Mona Naidoo who heads the NPA Tax Unit in Johannesburg.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw

Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng

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