

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 2017

RE: TRAFFIC OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR SOLICITING R100 BRIBE FROM A TAXI DRIVER

The Port Elizabeth Commercial Crimes Court convicted and sentenced Mthuthuzeli Solomon Dwane from Graaf – Reinet last week to seven years imprisonment of which 3 years are suspended for 5 years for corruption involving a R100 bribe. It is revealed in the court papers that on 01 May 2016, whilst on duty the accused was driving an official traffic department vehicle on the road between Beaufort West and Aberdeen when he stopped a taxi vehicle driven by the complainant, Bradley Wayne Seekoei.

The accused called Seekoei to the traffic vehicle and asked him for his driver's license and permit for transporting passengers. The complainant handed him his driver's license as well as a file of the vehicle's documentation and informed the accused that the taxi does not need the permit as it had a valid operator card and could only transport 9 passengers. The accused kept Seekoei's license and the file and instructed him to follow him and to stop where he will tell the complainant to stop.

Seekoei did as he was instructed. The accused informed him that he could issue him with a huge fine for not being in possession of the said permit. He then returned the driver's license and the file and told him to drive on, as he will get him on the Graaf – Reinet road. The complainant drove off again, but outside Aberdeen, was again instructed to stop and the accused informed the complainant that he was going to write him a huge fine for the vehicle's lights. At this point, the complainant told the accused that there was nothing wrong with his lights.

It was also at this point that the accused told Seekoei to pay protection fee which will serve as a protection from other traffic officials.. Seekoei went to his vehicle, took out a R100 note which he photographed before handing it to the accused. From there he went straight to the police station to report the incident.

The court revealed that the manner in which he acted contravened Section 3 (a) read with Sections 1,2, 24, 26 (1) (a) (ii) and 26(3) of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 12 of 2004- Corruption.

Advocate Lies Keech of the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit represented the state. The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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