Media Statement



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: TWO CORRUPT TRAFFIC OFFICERS SENTENCED

The Port Elizabeth Commercial Crimes Court convicted and sentenced two Traffic Officers from the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality on 1 March 2018. It is revealed in court papers that on 20 April 2015, whilst on duty accused one, Nosicelo Ncapayi and accused two, Mzukisi Mrara were driving an official vehicle. Accused 2, stopped his vehicle behind a truck, which had stopped in Sutton Road, Sidwell, Port Elizabeth, on a yellow line.

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Mzwamadoda Sam who was the truck driver was busy off-loading the freight on the truck in front of a business by the name of colour Centre. Sam (driver) was called by accused 2 to the car so that he can produce his driver's licence. Sam handed it to accused 1, who informed him that she was going to issue a fine to the value of R1000 for stopping the way he did, unless Sam had something to give them. Sam took out R200 from his wallet and gave it to them but accused 1 refused and told him not to give it to them like that as someone might be looking. Sam was told to drop the money inside the car through an open window.

Accused two, protested that the R200 was not enough and Sam took out a further R150 and dropped it in the car through an open window again. Accused one, returned Sam's driver's licence and they drove off without issuing any fine. The driver immediately reported what had happened to the manager of Colour Centre and later that same day, also reported the events to the South African Police Service.

On the very same day, the two accused also stopped another vehicle (taxi) which was being driven by Xola Mavata. He was allegedly driving without a valid professional driving permit and his taxi was also not in a road worthy condition. He was driving on his way from Korsten to Motherwell, transporting passengers. Mavata was made to pay R100 and he was also issued with a fine because he could not to produce a valid permit. On 2 April 2015, the two traffic officers, driving between Addo and Motherwell, stopped another driver Justice Gochela Manyena. Manyena was also made to pay R100 because his disc had expired and therefore the car was not roadworthy. Manyena told them that he did not have any money. Accused number 2 insisted that Manyena pay a small amount for a small fine and he obliged and gave them R100. Advocate Lise Keech from the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit represented the state. She argued that the money constituted a gratification, the money amounted to abuse of authority and breach of trust, and they were unauthorised. The court agreed.

Accused 1, was found guilty on 2 counts of corruption and sentenced on each count to 7 years imprisonment of which 3 is suspended for 5 years. Sentences to run concurrently (effective 4 years imprisonment). Accused 2, was found guilty on 3 counts of corruption and sentenced on each count to 7 years imprisonment of which 3 is suspended for 5 years. Sentences on counts 1 and 2 to run concurrently and 2 of the 4 years on count 3 to be served concurrently with count 1 and 2 (effective 6 years).

Leave to appeal against conviction and sentence for both accused was denied.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza NPA Regional Spokesperson DPP Grahamstown Cell: 071 680 3701