

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 01 MARCH 2019**

**RE: TWO POLICE OFFICERS INCLUDING A COURT ORDERLY SENTENCED FOR CORRUPTION AND DRUG DEALING**

Yesterday, the Strand Magistrate's Court sentenced a Kleinmond police officer to five years direct imprisonment after convicting him on a charge of corruption and two charges of defeating the administration of justice. Constable Frederico Franke entered into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state and was sentenced to direct imprisonment.

The court heard that on 9 May 2016, Elias Mamadou and Geoffrey Visser informed the accused about dried abalone that was going to be transported to Kleinmond. A plan was put together that the accused and his partner would pull over the vehicle, seize the abalone, take some of it for themselves to sell at a later stage for R20 000 and then submit the rest of the abalone and the vehicle.

On the morning of 10 May 2016, Visser drove from Hermanus with his bakkie loaded with dried abalone heading to Kleinmond. He was pulled over by a marked police vehicle. He stopped the vehicle and fled on foot as was planned. The accused and his partner, Constable Booyse, took over the vehicle and drove towards Kleinmond where they offloaded some of the abalone into another bakkie.

Visser reported the vehicle as stolen as was agreed and Constable Franke later returned it to him. An official of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries weighed the dried abalone and it weighed 142,28kg. The two police officers were paid for their contribution. After an investigation, Constable Franke, Constable L Booyse and Mamadou were arrested and detained at the Caledon Police Station. They appeared yesterday morning and Constable Franke entered into a plea and sentencing agreement with the State. The court declared Constable Franke unfit to possess a firearm.

The state told the court that an agreement has been reached with the accused and the Department of Social Development, that the spouse of the accused with the support of the family will take over the duties and responsibilities of the minor children. A Children's Court inquiry will be opened by the Department of Social Development and the position of the minor children will be monitored. If they are neglected, welfare services will intervene and the children will be put in foster care.

The case against his two co-accused will be on the roll on 3 April 2019 at the Hermanus Magistrate's Court. This conviction and sentence comes on the footsteps of another police officer who was sentenced on corruption, dealing in drugs, defeating the administration of justice and reckless or negligent driving at the same Strand Magistrate's Court. In 2017, police were advised that Warrant Officer Walter Sinden who was employed as court orderly at the Strand Magistrate's Court received and supplied drugs to prisoners in the court cells. On 5 October 2017, an operation was set up where an agent made contact with Warrant Officer Sinden. The agent handed Warrant Officer Sinden 50 mandrax tablets and R400 in cash.

When police attempted to stop Warrant Officer Sinden, he drove off throwing away the mandrax tablets and managed to evade arrest. He was arrested later that day. He appeared in court on 8 February 2019 and was convicted on all charges. He was sentenced to 5 years direct imprisonment for dealing in drugs, 5 years direct imprisonment for corruption, 2 years direct imprisonment for defeating the administration of justice and 1 year direct imprisonment for reckless or negligent driving. The court ordered that sentence of count 2 to count 4 run concurrently with the sentence of count 1. This means the accused is effectively sentenced to five years direct imprisonment.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape**

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