

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: UGANDAN NATIONALS SENTENCED FOR FRAUD

On 15 October 2018, the Port Elizabeth Commercial Crimes Court sentenced two Ugandan nationals, Orimutambira and Joram Nkiriho for four counts of fraud. In court papers, it was stated that the two duped Rhyno Oliver into believing that they can solve his financial problems. According to court papers, they were going to use the so called "advanced fee" or black dollar" scam which entails duping people into believing that their money can be multiplied by means of certain rituals normally involving "ancestors" promising the multiplication of money.

In this kind of fraud, after being duped, the complainants provide more money to the fraudster with the belief that it will be multiplied. The aforementioned scam has been declared an unfair business practice in terms of promulgated regulations promulgated in the Government Gazette under Notice 469 of 2005 in the Government Gazette 27414 of March 2005 read with section 42 (2), 42 (3) and schedule 2 Paragraph 6 of the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008. The court papers reveal.

The two accused are Ugandan citizens and there is no extradition treaty in place between Uganda and the Republic of South Africa. It also transpired that they are in the country illegally. It was also revealed in court that they placed an advertisement in the UD News, which is a weekly newspaper in the Uitenhage area where they advertised that they assist people with their financial problems.

Olivier made contact with the accused and met with them at various locations. He engaged in certain rituals guided by the accused; and made to believe that his money will multiply and in the end, he will receive R2, 2 million as a gift from his ancestors. The complainant believed the accused and withdrew R330 000 from his bank account and handed the money to the accused.

The money did not multiply as promised, the money was stolen by the accused. The two at all material times acted with a common purpose to deceive the complainant, but, this was part of an elaborate scheme to steal his money. These incidents happened between 23 April to 17 May 2018. They pleaded guilty before the Presiding Magistrate, Lionel Lindoor, and were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, 2 years , 8 years and 2 years respectively but they will serve 15 years effectively as some of the sentences will run concurrently. Advocate Wilhelm de Villier represented the state.

The Regional Head of SCCU, Advocate TC Goosen congratulated Advocate de Villiers and his team for a job well done.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza
NPA Regional Spokesperson
DPP: Grahamstown