

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 16 JULY 2019

**RE: WOMAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR CHILD
NEGLECT**

Last week, 11 July 2019, the KwaMhlanga Regional Court sentenced a 32 year-old woman to five years imprisonment after she was found guilty of neglecting her four minor children who are between the ages of four and thirteen years old.

The court heard that the victims' father was working away from home doing construction work and the children would then go to the neighbours to sleep over for days without any arrangements. The matter was reported to the police who then found the accused at a tavern drinking.

The accused, Nomvula Prudence Nkosi (32) pleaded not guilty. In her defence, she told the court that she did not neglect the children but instead went to look for a friend who owed her money as she wanted to buy electricity. The Regional Court Prosecutor, Bianca Harmse led testimonies of the eldest child, Londiwe Mahlangu as well as the neighbour who told the court that the accused left her minor children alone at home where they would then spend nights at their neighbour's place, which happened continuously. She further told the court that the accused would bring friends home and finish all the food before she went on her drinking spree for days, leaving the victims with nothing to eat. A blood alcohol report confirmed that the accused tested positive for substances found in alcohol and dagga.

The accused was found guilty as charged and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in terms of Section 276(1) (i) of Act 51/1977. The court ordered the notification of the deliberate neglect of the children by the accused in terms of Section 112 of the Children's Act. The court also found the accused unsuitable to work with children.

Child neglect, which is a form of child abuse, is a pervasive problem in South Africa that affects large numbers of children. The Children's Act and the Sexual Offences Act both establish mandatory reporting obligations to report abuse. Failure to report is a criminal offence, but most importantly, it leaves children at risk without support and services.

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv. Matric Lumphondo welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga

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