

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 31 JULY 2019

**RE: WOMAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT FOR
TRAFFICKING A SIX YEAR OLD BOY**

On 18 July 2019, the Carolina Regional Court sentenced a fifty nine year old woman to ten years direct imprisonment after she was found guilty of trafficking a six year-old boy from Mozambique to South Africa. The accused was arrested in May 2018 after she was reported for exploiting a six year- old boy residing with her.

During the police investigation, it was discovered that the victim comes from Mozambique and was smuggled through the bushes at the Lebombo Border gate. The accused is related to the mother of the victim. She betrayed the mother in that she promised to look after him if he comes and stays with her. She did not compensate the mother of the child but followed an accepted cultural practice to look after the child, as she was economically in a better position.

During the trial, the accused pleaded guilty to the offence and admitted that she had arranged for the victim to be smuggled into the country and not come through the border post entry, on the pretext that she would provide better support for the child. Instead, when the victim arrived in South Africa she used him for child labour.

The State Prosecutor who finalised the case, Antoinette Kloppe, told the court that offences related to trafficking in persons are very serious and seen as modern day slavery. In aggravation of sentence, she argued that this incident will impact on the child's emotional, physical, and overall psychological development and that direct imprisonment must be imposed. A probation officer testified and a victim impact report was handed in. The victim was referred to a child and youth care centre for social development intervention.

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

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga

Enquiries: mnyuswa@npa.gov.za

076 485 5446