



**energy**

Department:  
Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Media Statement:**

**Theft of an Eskom credit dispensing machine and numerous counts of electricity theft.**

***Pretoria, 25 May 2017***

The Minister of Energy, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi welcomes the arrest and successful conviction of a woman and her son believed to be the kingpin of a syndicate which sold prepaid electricity illegally. The woman was sentenced to 42 years in prison at the South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg on Tuesday, 23 May 2017 and her sentences will run concurrently. Maphuthi Jeanette Chiliza, 60, from De Deur, south of Gauteng will serve 18 years in prison for managing a criminal enterprise, 12 years for participating in a criminal enterprise in the form of racketeering, 10 years for the theft of a prepaid electricity credit dispensing machine belonging to Eskom and 10 years for numerous counts of theft related to the illegal sale of electricity.

Her son, Nqobile Chiliza, 25, was found guilty of participating in a criminal enterprise, theft of an Eskom credit dispensing machine and numerous counts of electricity theft. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. The Minister also said that the sentences will send a very strong message to those who tempers with electricity and that theft of electricity is a serious criminal offence.

*“Government remains committed to ensuring the provision of reliable and sustainable electricity supply for all, as part of mitigating the risk of carbon emissions” said the Minister.*

***Issued by the Department of Energy’s Ministerial Liaison Officer***

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