

O. R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICERS INTERCEPT 5KG OF HEROIN

KEMPTON PARK, 9 March 2018 – Security officers employed by O. R. Tambo International Airport last night (Thursday 8 March) intercepted a shipment of more than 5kg of heroin leading to the arrest of a man about to board an international flight.

The Polish national was due to board flight EK766 to Dubai. At 7.50pm he placed his bags into the scanner at the international departures security checkpoint. The security officer on duty at the scanner identified a potential threat and on this basis acted accordingly.

The passenger's bag and carry-on luggage were searched by a different security officer. She detected that while all inside the bags appeared normal, the bags felt heavier than is typically the case. She summoned another security officer who also suspected that the bags had been tampered with and they were taken to a supervisor's office.

The bag was cut open and a concealment was found. The security officers called for an SAPS dog and handler. The dog indicated for drugs and it was later confirmed that the concealment was heroin with a weight of 5.2kg and an estimated street value of R1 million (one million rand).

The passenger was handed to the SAPS and arrested.

Said airport spokesperson Leigh Gunkel-Keuler: "This security team has had notable successes in recent months. The officers involved in this incident included several who were involved in finding cocaine in the underwear of a Seychelles-bound passenger last November.

"We are pleased as airport management that our security officers remain at the top of their game and airport management has congratulated the staff concerned. Airport security is determined to continue doing everything possible to intercept drug couriers," she said.

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