Media Statement

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TO: **ALL MEDIA**

DATE: **21 SEPTEMBER 2015**

RE: **FRAUDSTERS SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS**

On 17 September 2015, the Mthatha Regional Court convicted and sentenced two foreign nationals from Uganda to seven years direct imprisonment for fraud. Robert Ssebuliba and Casita James, both 30 years old, pleaded guilty on a charge of fraud after attempting to defraud Sipho Mkhohli of Elliotdale.

The duo informed their intended victim that they "wash black papers clean and turn them to become R100 bank notes". They then led the unsuspecting Mkhohli to an old abandoned building in Elliotdale, where a demonstration was done and he was made to believe that the papers were "washed and turned to bank notes". The fraudsters then asked Mkhohli to bring R100 000 in cash which they claimed was going to multiply to become R800 000, a claim that was false.

Both men were arrested in a police sting operation on 05 August 2015, just before the delivery of the requested money and they were found in possession of a safe. After their arrest they led the police to a house in North Crest in Mthatha where more black blank papers were found.

In the same house the police also found two illegal immigrants, also from Uganda, being housed by their fellow countrymen, Nsubuga Muhammed (23) and Nakasiita Jacklie (28), who were charged along the two fraudsters for contravening the Immigration Act. Both Muhammed and Jacklie also pleaded guilty and were given a fine of R1000 or 12 months imprisonment by the Mthatha Regional Court.

The case was prosecuted by Senior State Advocate Mtutuzeli Rangula of the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit in Mthatha.

The NPA welcomes this sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to would-be fraudsters who prey on poor gullible people.

Kind regards

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Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security