

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 06 JULY 2016

RE: AFU GRANTED FORFEITURE ORDER AGAINST "SALGA OFFICIAL"

The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) was on Thursday granted an order to forfeit R689 825 in terms of Prevention of Organised Crime Act on the grounds that the money was the proceeds of unlawful activities by the Free State High Court.

Acting Judge Zietsman granted the order after evidence was presented to him that the money was paid by Thabiso Mofokeng, the Chief Executive Officer of a company called WASO Technologies to Frans De Beer after he fraudulently misrepresented himself as an employee of South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

De Beer had several meetings with Mofokeng and employees from WASO between September and December 2015. WASO specializes in building of solar grid power stations and was in partnership with an overseas company called Hong Bao Group which was based in China. De Beer introduced himself as SALGA's director of infrastructure and requested WASO to present their proposal for the solar grid project.

On 28 November 2015, Mofokeng received a letter from De Beer indicating that WASO has been appointed to install solar grids in Upington. Mofokeng and his colleagues again met with De Beer and he told them that WASO must pay R800 000 to SALGA as it was required for awarding the project. WASO paid the money into De Beer's account in January 2016.

Mofokeng went to the offices of SALGA in Bloemfontein when he realised that SALGA was not committing to signing the contract in respect of Upington solar project. He was

informed that De Beer is not an employee of SALGA and the letterheads on which the letters were drafted were not in accordance with the practice of SALGA. Mofokeng became suspicious and opened a case against De Beer and he was arrested.

The AFU was granted a preservation order in March 2016 to freeze R689 825 that was in De Beer's account. He had already used R110 175. The R689 825 will be returned to Mofokeng and his company.

De Beer's criminal trial will start in the Free State High Court on 24 October 2016.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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