

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 01 JUNE 2016**

**RE: THIEF SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR 3 753 COUNTS OF THEFT**

The Taung Magistrate Court sentenced Vincent Thamsanqa Mongale from Kgomotso Village to an effective 10 years imprisonment for 3 753 counts of theft.

The accused was tasked to manage funds of the Malebogo Home Based Care Group. The court found that the accused unlawfully transferred the amount of R100.00 from the account of the group into to his personal bank account. This he did 3 753 times over a period of 9 months. As a result he transferred a total amount of R375 300.00 from the group's account into his account. The reason he transferred money into his account R100-00 at a time, was to prevent the other members of the group receiving sms-notifications of activity on the account.

The available evidence indicated that no notifications were sent out by the bank for transactions of R100-00 or less. The court said the accused knew this and he committed the theft in a calculated manner.

In his judgment the court found that the accused was the chairperson of the group. This group is a community based programme mainly funded by the Department of Social Development. The function of this group is to look after the needs of vulnerable persons in their community. These persons include orphaned children and people living with HIV.

During the sentencing the court stated that the accused caused the most vulnerable persons in the community to suffer. The accused was driven by greed. Furthermore none of the stolen money could be recovered as it was utilised by the accused for his own personal benefit. The Department had to carry the loss of the group's funds.

On 19 April 2016 the accused pleaded not guilty to all the charges and the trial proceeded. The court took all the counts together for purpose of sentence and imposed 10 years direct imprisonment.

The NPA congratulates Advocate Wessel Van Biljon for a job well done and welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Frank Lesenyego**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West**

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