

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 21 JUNE 2016**

**RE: MEMBER OF A CRIME SYNDICATE TURNS STATE WITNESS:  
SASSA GRANTS**

The Bellville Specialised Commercial Crimes Court has sentenced Nosipho Majola to six years imprisonment, wholly suspended for a period of five years, after she agreed to testify for the state against members of a crime syndicate that defrauded the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) of millions of rands. The syndicate was based at different provinces. She also received the suspended sentence on condition that she is not convicted of corruption during the period of suspension.

Members of the syndicate were arrested recently and have appeared at the Bellville Specialised Commercial Crimes Court. They included Mavis Padi and Moses Vincent Piyat from Tlokwe, Nelisiwe Msimango from KZN, Eliot Jilingisi and Asanda Cebisa, Ntsikilelo Mpehendukana, Nosipho Majola all from the Western Cape; Matshidiso Divine Mosupa, Tebogo Divine Letebele, Nomvuyiselo Gladys Phoyana, Nontsikelelo Nikiwe Phoyane and Anna Manna Letsoha all from Matlosana; Nombuyiselo Sigcau from Mthatha and Keamogetswe Gabayo - Phoswayo from Krugersdorp.

Majola pleaded guilty after she was arrested and charged with corruption. She offered an undercover agent R12 500 after he agreed to fraudulently register identity documents and arrange for SASSA banking cards.

Last year officials at Matlosane and Tlokwe SASSA offices in North West discovered fraud indicators which led to an investigation. The investigation revealed that significant amounts of grant applications were fraudulent. Grants were captured, verified and approved in the North West Province but the actual issuing of SASSA cards was done in the Western Cape whilst withdrawals of cash took place in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Nineteen Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) officials were identified. Some were dismissed while others resigned after disciplinary hearings. Cash Paymaster Services (Pty) Ltd is a

service provider employed by SASSA to distribute grant payments to beneficiary accounts.

Securing the plea and sentencing agreement Advocate Simon Leope said, "White collar crime such as corruption by members of the public in cahoots with persons in position of trust has reached alarming proportions. Corruption, fraud and theft often result in huge losses to members of the public and the state. SASSA suffered a loss of R104 983 as a result of these fraudulent withdrawals."

The NPA welcomes this sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**DPP Western Cape: Spokesperson**

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