

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**RE: AFU GRANTED AN ORDER TO FORFEIT R21 MILLION**

The Free State High Court has today granted the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the NPA an order in terms of Prevention of Organised Crime Act to forfeit R21 162 000 belonging to two men that were arrested on 14 February 2017 after they were found in possession of four bags containing the money. A total of R12 million of the money was in US dollars and the rest was in South African currency.

Advocate Thato Ntimutse argued in court that the money should be forfeited to the state after Mohamed Baig and Mohamed Ismail failed to provide the court with statements justifying their possession of such huge amount of money. The case was postponed few times to allow them to file their statements but they failed to do so.

According to the initial preservation order, Baig and Ismail allegedly drove from Durban to Bloemfontein to board a flight from Bram Fischer International airport to Cape Town when they were stopped by members of SAPS and airport security officials.

The police and airport security officials became suspicious when they noticed the duo with four big travelling bags that were too heavy. They requested to search the bags and they found bundles of cash in envelopes hidden inside the travelling bags.

Baig and Ismail were questioned about being in possession of such huge amount of money but they failed to give a reasonable explanation and they were subsequently arrested. They did not have authority to be in possession of such a huge amount of money.

They are currently out on bail of R50 000 each and their criminal case has been postponed to 10 October 2017 for arrangement of a trial date.

Kind Regards,

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

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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