

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 12 MARCH 2018**

**RE: AFU HANDS OVER ILL-GOTTEN ASSETS TO COMMUNITY**

On Wednesday, 07 March 2018, the Eastern Cape Division of the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) officially handed over R800 000 worth of flats that belonged to the late businessman and fraud-accused, Sive Nombembe to the Amazizi Traditional Council Trust of the rural community of Zazulwana in Butterworth.

The flats were among properties that the Grahamstown High Court granted a Forfeiture Order against in relation to the infamous R10 million tender fraud relating to rubbish bags in the Mquma Local Municipality, last year.

Assets belonging to those implicated in the fraud which have already been sold in public auction include a R 1,3 million house, trailers and a vehicle worth R685 000 and R39 000 carport. Amounts totalling R177 350 were also received from individuals who received gratifications as part of the tender scam and all the monies are to be handed back to the National Treasury.

The property, situated across the road from Walter Sisulu University's (WSU) Ibika Campus, was handed over to the community of Zazulwana because it is situated on communal land of Amazizi Traditional Council Trust, thus could not be sold on auction as it has no title deed.

The late businessman leased the 18 flats to WSU and they generated a monthly income of R68 000, with two students occupying each flat.

Speaking after officially receiving the keys to the property, the chairperson of Zazulwana Development Trust, the business arm of the Amazizi Traditional Council Trust, Luthando Ngcebetsha, committed that the property would be utilised to develop the community and improve the living conditions of the people of Zazulwana village.

"We hope to strengthen our relationship with WSU and continue to lease the plot as they had been doing with the deceased former owner," he said.

AFU Eastern Cape head, Dr Chris Ndzengu, warned the community that the use of the property would be monitored to ensure that it indeed benefits the community at large and not enrich individuals. "Should there be shenanigans surrounding the administration of this property, law enforcement authorities will be back to deal with wrongdoers," Dr. Ndzengu cautioned.

NPA views these developments as a clear and strong indication that crime does not pay, and those involved in generating wealth through illicit activities will not live to enjoy the fruits of crime.

Four co-accused of the late Sive Nombembe, including the African National Congress's Amathole Regional Secretary, Terris Ntuthu, are due in the Butterworth Regional Court on 25 May 2018 for the fraud trial.

Kind Regards,

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha**

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