

# Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions



The National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa  
Igunya Jikelele Labetshutshisi boMzantsi Afrika  
Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag van Suid-Afrika

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 29 AUGUST 2008**

**RE: AFU, SAPS AND SARS COOPERATION LED TO AUDITOR'S R20  
MILLION ASSET SEIZURE**

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Tel: +27 12 845 6000  
Fax: +27 12 845 7291

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake  
Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

P/Bag X752  
Pretoria  
0001  
South Africa

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

A prominent Gauteng Accountant, who is alleged to have defrauded the South African Revenue Service (SARS) of millions of Rands by submitting fraudulent Value Added Tax (VAT) claims for refunds, stands to lose assets valued at approx R20 million if he is found guilty.

Today, the Johannesburg office of the NPA's Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) served court papers on Ivan Don van der Linde at his luxury three storey house in Glenvista, south of Johannesburg to restrain the bulk of his assets until the finalisation of his criminal trial that is proceeding at the Germiston Regional Court.

The successful freezing of Van der Linde's assets was the result of extensive investigations by members of the South African Police Service and SARS.

The assets placed under restraint include six immovable properties registered in Van der Linde's name and his close corporations, and two properties registered in one of his accomplice's name, ten motor vehicles including a Bentley and a Land Rover, 40 bank accounts including a safety deposit box and 69 close corporations and companies. His wife's Range Rover has also been placed under restraint.

According to an affidavit filed in the restraint application, Van der Linde and four accomplices conspired to defraud SARS of approximately R29 million. Some of



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

the accomplices have fled the country and are believed to be in either Portugal or Brazil, Van der Linde, as the auditor of companies an/or close corporations, generated false documents to support fraudulent VAT claims which were then submitted to SARS on the pretext that the close corporations or companies had been in operation and had exported goods to neighbouring countries, and that they are therefore entitled to the VAT refunds.

The offences are alleged to have been committed between 1997 and 2005.

The fraudulent scheme was an elaborate one which allegedly also involved officials at border posts who supplied false documents as proof that goods had passed through the border gates to the neighbouring countries for export purposes.

Head of the AFU in Johannesburg, Wendy da Silva has stated that this case demonstrates that crime does not pay.

Van der Linde has until 21 October 2008 to oppose the order.

Enquiries: **NPA Spokesperson, Tlali Tlali**

**082 3333 880**