

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 8 MARCH 2010**

**RE: NPA SEIZES ASSETS IN SARS FRAUD CASE**

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The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) of the National Prosecuting Authority on Friday 5 March 2010 seized property believed to be worth more than R 15 million belonging to Tayob family. The Asset Forfeiture Unit obtained a restraint order in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act on 01 March 2010 in the North Gauteng High Court against Shahida Tayob, her husband Abdool Tayob, son Ahmed Tayob and their entities.

It is alleged that Shahida Tayob claimed false VAT refunds totaling approximately R 35 742 through her close corporation from SARS after she had created the impression that her close corporation had exported goods to certain clients in Namibia. She misrepresented to SARS that her close corporation had sold cell phones to the value of R334 79 245 to certain suppliers and claimed a VAT refund in the region of R 35 742 763. SARS ultimately paid over an amount of R 33 398 081 into the account of Shahida Tayob's close corporation.

She then issued cheques belonging to her close corporation to third parties known to her as if these were payments to suppliers, when in fact her husband and son would cash these cheques for the benefit of the family.

It was established that the R33 398 081 VAT money that was unlawfully claimed from SARS on a regular monthly basis was used to finance a range of private acquisitions and expenses, including two Porches and houses for the family of Shahida Tayob.

The restraint order prohibits the family and others whom may have interest in these properties from disposing of an amount of R 35 742 763 which they claimed from SARS. They were ordered to surrender the properties to the *Curator Bonis* appointed by Court. These properties will be held in custody by the *Curator Bonis* until the criminal case is finalised. If the accused are convicted and the State succeeds in obtaining a confiscation order, the properties will be sold and the money paid back to SARS.

The Police were due to arrest Shahida Tayob's son this morning but could not find him. It is believed that Shahida Tayob and her husband have skipped the country.

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