

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 29 MAY 2020

RE: ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT (AFU) FREEZES ASSETS OF PROVERBS MEDICAL (PTY) LTD IN COVID-19 RELATED CORRUPTION MATTER

On 25 May 2020, the AFU of the National Prosecuting Authority obtained a preservation order, in terms of the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 121 of 1998 (POCA), in the High Court, Gauteng Division, Pretoria, to freeze an amount of R555 875.53, held in the bank account of Proverbs Medical at Standard Bank.

Deltamore Holdings and Protech, both companies located in Botswana, were engaged in a tender from the Botswana Government to supply mopcaps and facemasks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The companies placed an order with Proverbs Medical (Pty) Ltd, a South African company, for the purchase of these items. Payment in the amount of just over R1 million was made for the purchase of the PPEs, but Proverbs failed to deliver the items. Proverbs used the situation created by the pandemic to misrepresent to Deltamore and Protect that the required medical supplies could be provided and delivered. These Botswana companies acted on this misrepresentation and made payment to Proverbs, to their prejudice, without ever receiving the PPEs.

The application was brought on the basis that the funds in the Standard Bank account represents the proceeds of the unlawful activity of money laundering, fraud; and/or theft. The money is currently preserved pending the finalisation of the forfeiture proceedings.

The order was obtained as a result of excellent cooperation between Interpol, Interpol Gabarone, Botswana, the South African Police Service, the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) and the AFU.

Those who take advantage of the crisis presented by the pandemic through illegal acts and corruption will be prosecuted vigorously, and the NPA will not hesitate to use its asset recovery processes to remove profit from crime.

Hurbetin Phindi Mjonondwane

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