

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: 10 JUNE 2008

RE: ASSETS SEIZURE: OPERATION SINBAD

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Assets with an estimated value of R5 million were seized by the Assets Forfeiture Unit (AFU) in Pietermaritzburg today. A multi-agency investigation by the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) Directorate of Special Operations (Scorpions) and the South African Police Service's (SAPS) Organized Crime Unit led to the arrest of Joyce Thembelihle Komane in 2005. Assets seized today include five (5) houses and several vehicles in Pietermaritzburg.

The AFU successfully applied for a preservation order in terms of section 38 of the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA), 1998. POCA allows for assets to be seized where an investigation has established that those who acquired assets do not have any legitimate source of income to justify or account for such acquisitions. Together with other investigations carried out, we now can state that those assets are the proceeds of crime.

Komane, whom we allege is the main drugs distributor and supplier in the area, is standing trial together with five others, on dealing in drugs, money laundering and racketeering charges. Approximately 11 000 mandrax tablets were found at one of her properties when she was arrested in 2005.

The case is part-heard and will resume on 29 September – 10 October 2008 at the Pietermaritzburg Regional Court. Four of the five accused are out on bail, including Komane, pending the finalization of the trial.

Kind regards

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