

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**RE: CLERKS FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED FOR FRAUD, THEFT, AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

Last week, the Graskop Regional Court convicted and sentenced Sphiwe Emily Mashinini (44) to 8 years imprisonment suspended for 5 years for fraud, theft, and money laundering of over R 5 million.

During 2011, Mashinini was employed as a finance clerk at Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency and was responsible for payments to small businesses. In 2012, she allegedly changed the account numbers of the service providers and substituted them with that of her ex-husband, Mhlupheki Ngobeneni and their family business.

She was first arrested together with her former colleagues and friends Thulisile Nkundla, her husband Mfeleni Louis Nkundla, Dinah Nkosi, Thulisile Maseko for fraud, theft and money laundering committed after transferring money amounting to R 5 Million from the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency to their entities Standard bank accounts in 2012. The Standard Bank (Pty) Ltd was also charged for contravention of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act by failing to report suspicious transactions. Standard bank was found not guilty.

The accused were all found guilty and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment in respect of each of 18 counts of theft, wholly suspended for five years on condition that they were not convicted on money laundering committed during the period of suspension. The AFU was granted Confiscation Orders against their properties including houses, motor vehicles and pension funds.

During trial, the state presented by Advocate Patrick Nkuna relied on the forensic investigation reports and financial investigations, the evidence of the officials from the

financial intelligence centre and the testimony of the police. Mashinini was found guilty as charged.

Mashinini was further ordered to pay back an amount of R233.677.00 to the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) within 5 years as proceeds of the crime she committed.

We welcome the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to those who commit similar crimes.

Kind Regards,

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