

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

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

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 19 June 2018

RE: COUPLE FINALLY SENTENCED FOR FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

In a matter that attracted a lot of media attention since 2015 where a couple who were members of the Twelve Apostles Church in Christ and were alleged to have defrauded and laundered the church's millions, were finally sentenced yesterday. Zola Maziyana who used to be President of the South African Social Practitioner's Union (Saspu) faced 53 counts of fraud and his wife Zukiswa Maziyana, faced 153 counts of money laundering under the prevention of Organised Crime Act.

The couple managed to defraud and launder over R7 million that belonged to the Twelve Apostles Church in Christ. The court papers revealed that this matter started when the church's executive committee appointed Maziyana to investigate the delays they were experiencing in payments due to the church from Sanlam Affinity Financial Scheme.

Maziyana misrepresented to the church that the members of the NPA or the Asset Forfeiture Unit were assisting him in the investigation and needed to be reimbursed for their costs. The church's president, Professor Ceasar Nongqunga, transferred R6.8 million from the church's bank account and R227 000.00 from his personal bank account into accounts allegedly held by Zukiswa Maziyana. The couple allegedly used the money to buy a property in Sunnyside for R1.08 million, building material worth R203, 385.00 to build family homes in Ntabankulu and Cengceni in the Bashe District as well as vehicles worth R320 809. 00.

The AFU had since attached the couple's assets totalling R4 million in terms of the preservation order by the High Court in Grahamstown. It is interesting to note that Saspu expressed astonishment on the arrest of Maziyana according to the Daily Dispatch reports at the time as the Deputy President of Saspu said, "We know that this is political, and it has nothing to do with Maziyana as a person but it is targeting the organisation."

The Grahamstown High Court also ordered that his assets be seized and be actioned off and proceeds handed back to the church which they defrauded.

Yesterday, the East London Regional Court finalised the case and sentenced Zola Mazyana to the minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and his wife Zukiswa Mazyana was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment. The Presiding Officer in this matter Magistrate Kitching when handing down the sentence did mention that, he did not believe Mazyana's assertion that Professor Nongqunga knew about the money and that he was entitled to it and that he was not a reliable witness and showed no remorse of what he did as he maintained his innocence until his sentencing. Advocate Deneshree Naicker who is a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions at the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit based in East London dealt with the matter. She is applauded for leading by example and a job well done.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza

NPA Regional Spokesperson

Tel: 012 842 1418

Cell: 071 680 3701