

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: 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

RE: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FRAUDSTERS SENTENCED

The last member of a syndicate of 5 individuals who syphoned R3.5 million from the then Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Zanele Taleni was sentenced to an effective imprisonment of 8 years by the Johannesburg Regional Court today.

Taleni operated an enterprise while co-accused, including those that were senior employees of the department, Lovelock Modiba, Godfrery Molefe, Floyd Vumani and Tsepo Mosadi.

Modiba and Molefe were employed by the department and were based at the regional office in Johannesburg. Molefe was employed as an Assistant Director: Financial Operations, whilst Modiba was employed as a Senior State Accountant. By virtue of their positions in the department, both Modiba and Molefe had access to the payment systems of the department, namely the Basic Accounting System (BAS) and Justice Yellow Pages (JPY). They would transfer large sums of money from the department's bank account to their own personal bank accounts and to the bank account of syndicate members, Taleni, Mosadi and Vumani. The accused would then share the money amongst themselves. The court found that neither of the accused were entitled or had legitimate reasons for the monies to be transferred into their bank accounts.

Modiba and Vumani pleaded guilty and were convicted of the charges in 2013 and sentenced to 10 and 5 years effective imprisonment terms respectively. Molefe passed away during the trial whilst Mosadi was convicted of theft of state money and sentenced to 8 years imprisonment on 23 May 2018.

Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Jabulani Mlotshwa argued that the offence was very serious and the more aggravating factor was that the employer placed them in a position of trust and, motivated by greed, they abused this power to

defraud the department of money that was meant to improve service delivery. The money was paid into the accused's bank accounts under the guise that it was payments to service providers for services rendered to/for the department. He added that their actions disregarded the plight of South African citizens against corruption in the Public Service.

The NPA commends the vigilance of the Auditor-General's personnel who uncovered this syndicate as it would not have been easy to detect the accused's criminal conduct.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw Mjonondwane

Regional Spokesperson: Gauteng

062 690 6505/011 220 4245

hlouw@npa.gov.za