

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 6 July 2018**

**RE: EDUCATION OFFICIALS SENTENCED FOR FRAUD AND CORRUPTION**

Eleven officials who were employed by the Department of Education in the Free State were last week sentenced for fraud, corruption, money laundering and contravention of Public Finance Management Act. Judge Faan Hancke sentenced the officials for crimes relating to distribution of books to schools in the province. The crimes were committed in 2001.

Teboho Lioma (62,) who was the acting Head of the Department of Education, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after he was found guilty of fraud, contravention of POCA and contravention of Public Finance Management Act. The sentences were taken together for purposes of sentencing. He will effectively spend seven years in prison after three years of his sentence were suspended for a period of three years.

Isaac Seoe (56) was convicted of fraud and sentenced to a fine of R150 000. He was also sentenced to three years imprisonment, suspended for a period of three years on condition that during the period of suspension he is not found guilty of fraud and theft.

Virginia Moseia (52) was convicted of fraud and sentenced to a fine of R15 000 or six months imprisonment. She was also sentenced to three years imprisonment, suspended for three years on condition that she is not found guilty of fraud and theft. She represented Mabolela Distributors who entered into a contract with the Department of Education for distribution of learner support material.

Sekese Motaung (63) who was responsible for evaluating tenders and making eventual recommendations to the tender committee, Vuyisile Majola (60), Malehana Lesetla, Nteboheng Lesetla, Charles Teatsane, Petrus Teatsane and Maria Letsela were all sentenced to 36 months correctional supervision. They were also sentenced to three

years imprisonment, suspended for a period of three years on condition that they are not found guilty of fraud and theft, committed during the period of suspension.

Ntsikelelo Majola (56) who was the chairperson of the Free State tender board was sentenced to five years imprisonment, of which two years were suspended for three years on condition that during the period of suspension he is not found guilty of fraud and theft.

The Free State Department of Education invited tenders for the distribution of Learning Support Material and Textbooks to the schools in the province. Thirty-seven tenderers were awarded these tenders. The tender contract was signed in 2001 and was valid for three years.

Motaung manipulated the tender process and tenders were awarded to persons that were not illegible for these tenders. Officials of the department were involved in the tender process and were paid by successful tenderers. The total amount the Department of Education paid to the accused is estimated at R30 million.

The accused were arrested in 2004 and the matter was in court for 14 years after the accused applied for permanent stay of prosecution that was eventually dismissed by the Constitutional Court.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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