

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 17 MAY 2010**

**RE: JUDGE REVOKES BAIL GRANTED TO WILLIAM MBATHA'S CO-ACCUSED NEO MOKONE**

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On Friday 14 May 2010 the South Gauteng High Court set aside a decision by Germiston Regional Magistrate to grant Neo Mokone bail of R10 000. This was after the State, represented by Adv Herman Broodryk SC and Adv Willemien Vos appealed against the Magistrate's decision to grant bail to Mokone who is co-accused with William Mbatha. The implication of this judgement is that his bail is revoked, a warrant of arrest was issued with immediate effect and the Court ordered that he will be detained until the completion of his case.

Mr Mokone and Mbatha are facing charges ranging from robbery with aggravating circumstances, kidnapping, unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition and impersonating police officers allegedly committed during November 2008 and April 2009. His co-accused Mbatha was denied bail and is therefore in custody. The nature of these offences are such that they fall under the category of Schedule 6 which require that before an accused person can be admitted to bail, he or she must show to the court that there are exceptional circumstances which in the interest of justice permit his release on bail.

Judge Labuschagne re-evaluated the evidence and concluded that no such exceptional circumstances existed. The accused's legal representative immediately brought an application for leave to appeal to

the Supreme Court of Appeal against the Judge's order which was dismissed. On Sunday his legal representatives contacted the investigating officer and alleged that Mokone will hand himself to the police today in Germiston. That however did not transpire and since Friday afternoon the police's attempts to locate and arrest Mokone have been unsuccessful.

The NPA will meticulously exercise its right to appeal against all decisions that may be viewed as undermining the proper administration of justice. The NPA will therefore work tirelessly to ensure that justice is not only done but manifestly seen to be done.

**Enquiries:**

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