

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

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

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2018**

**RE: MAGISTRATE, LAWYERS SENTENCED FOR CORRUPTION**

The Musina Regional Court sentenced Tivoneleni Lubisi (38), Estene Willemse (42) and Ronnie Rambau (58) to 15, 10 and 15 years imprisonment respectively for corruption last week.

During trial, the court heard how the three accused abused their powers to solicit money from general members of the community. They operated around the Musina Magistrate Court. They would collude to take money from accused persons charged of different offences so that they could get less sentence.

This trio is made up of one lawyer, one prosecutor and a magistrate.

Informers came up with information that this kind of activity was taking place and should be investigated. Members of the counter intelligence unit in Pretoria applied for and were granted authority in terms of section 252A of the criminal procedure Act 51 of 1977 for holding of a trap to investigate the suspicion of corrupt activities.

The entrapment which had two deep cover agents, which one of them was arrested and charged of possession of stolen property, requested the services of Lubisi who then told him that this matter can be dealt with fast. He said he could push for a pre-arranged sentence, if only a total of R27000 could be paid. The deep cover agent was then arrested, convicted and sentenced to the pre-arranged sentence as agreed. The trio were arrested on the same day the sentence was handed down and in their possession was marked money which directly linked them to the offence as suspected.

In their defense, they denied having taken money from anyone. The court found them guilty as charged for contravening Section 21(b) of the prevention and Combating of corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Deon Lamminga brought to the attention of the court the high rate of corruption in the country. He said the accused persons did not show any remorse for their offences. Lamminga pointed to the fact that the accused were prominent members of the community who should have led by example and help fight crime but instead they were the ones perpetuating its commission, he added.

In handing down the sentence, the court found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances that justified deviation from imposing the minimum prescribed sentence.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended the investigation team and the regional prosecutor, Deon Lamminga for their persistence in ensuring that the accused persons are duly punished for their conduct.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhagi**  
**Regional Communication Manager**  
**DPP Limpopo**