

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 23 MARCH 2015**

**RE: NPA DEALING WITH CORRUPTION WITHIN GOVERNMENT**

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On Friday, 20 March 2015 the Johannesburg Magistrates Court sentenced two former employees of the Department of Justice for stealing and defrauding the employer of over R3 million from September 2012 and March 2013.

The accused, Lovelock Modiba and Floyd Vumani were sentenced to 355 years and 31 years respectively for fraud, theft, racketeering and money laundering. The duo pleaded guilty on 16 October 2014 with their plea leading to a separation of trial from three other employees of the Department of justice, who pleaded not guilty and two companies that were contracted to the department. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently, leading to an effective 10 year prison term for accused 1 and 5 years imprisonment for accused 2. The two accused undertook to forfeit their pension benefits so as to compensate the employer and made arrangements to pay the remaining amount in instalments.

Modiba was described by the presiding officer as the brainchild of this crime because of his knowledge and experience acquired during his tenure as an accountant for the Department of Justice. Both accused were found guilty of persistently defrauding the employer by authorising bogus payments to service providers and stealing from the coffers meant to compensate state witnesses for their travel expenses.

The state argued that the crime had a negative impact with far reaching consequences as service delivery was hindered, resulting in prejudice to victims of crime and the finalisation of cases. Adv Jabulani Mlotshwa prayed for a harsher sentence that will portray a government that is committed to fighting corrupt elements within its employ. He further asked the court to show no leniency towards the accused as they were driven by greed and that white collar crime has a corrosive impact on society as whole.

In passing sentence, the court took into account that the accused pleaded guilty and said an imposition of the prescribed minimum sentence would be disproportionate to the crime and the merits of the case.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

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