

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: 12 November 2009

**RE: NPA SEIZES ASSETS IN FRAUD AND THEFT
CASE**

On 9 November 2009 the North Gauteng High Court granted a restraint order in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act against Charl Bester (33), which prohibits him against dealing in his property. The application was launched by the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) of the National Prosecuting Authority. The court appointed curator yesterday attached the assets of Charl Bester, a former administrative manager at the Blue Crane Restaurant in Pretoria.

He was arrested yesterday and appeared in Specialised Commercial Crimes Court in Pretoria where he pleaded guilty to 820 counts of fraud and the case was postponed to 5 March 2010 for sentencing and was granted bail of R5000. These offences were committed during the period June 2007 to June 2009.

Mr Bester, a former administrative manager at the Blue Crane Restaurant, was, amongst others responsible for the, credit and debit control, bank reconciliation, bookkeeping, cash book and daily cash up, VAT, PAYE, UIF, payroll administration, marketing, employment contracting, liaison for foreign guests and governmental dignitaries, stock control, kitchen supervision, ordering of stock according to company requirements, function coordination and employee timetable management.

Bester managed to misappropriate R 1 475 023.18 by transferring money which was due to service providers, into his personal bank account. He inserted his own banking details when making electronic payments to the service providers

The court appointed curator attached moveable and immovable properties. Amongst this is various policies and furniture.

Enquiries:

NPA Spokesperson

Mthunzi Mhaga

0721986863

Mcmhaga@npa.gov.za