

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 10 APRIL 2018

RE: R78 MILLION SEIZED TO THE STATE AFTER OR TAMBO BUST

The Johannesburg High Court ordered that R78 million that was seized at OR Tambo International Airport on 28 August 2015 be forfeited to the state.

United States currency to the amount of R4 080 190 00 and R22 075 500 (R78 million) was found in possession of five men who were on their way to Dubai in 2015.

All five men were charged with contravention of Customs and Excise Act 91 of 1964 and contravention of the Currency and Exchange Act 9 of 1933. The state alleged that they intended to take money in excess of R1000 000 out of the Republic of South Africa without permission from Treasury and they failed to declare before leaving the country that they have such money in their possession as required by law. Two of the men (accused 1 - Mohammed Yousuf Suliman and accused 5 - Cassim Kathrada) pleaded guilty which prompted the state to withdraw charges against the other three men.

The court sentenced both accused to a fine of R100 000 or two years imprisonment for contravening the Customs and Excise Act and another R100 000 or two years imprisonment for contravening the Currency and Exchange Act. Half of both sentences were suspended for 5 years on condition that both accused are not found guilty of committing same offences.

The NPA commends Senior State Advocate, Duduzile Robertse from the Tax Unit in Johannesburg, the investigation team and the Asset Forfeiture Unit for securing a sentence resulting in a successful seizure of the cash.

Kind Regards,

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