

# 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: 21 AUGUST 2018**

**RE: SCA DISMISSES BLOCK, SCHOLTZ LEAVE TO APPEAL 15 YEAR SENTENCES**

The Supreme Court of Appeal has today dismissed the application for leave to appeal lodged by John Block and Christo Scholtz in which they wanted the SCA to set aside the conviction and sentence of 15 years imposed by the Northern Cape High Court.

Block, the former Chairperson of the ANC in the Northern Cape and the MEC of Finance, was found guilty of corruption and money laundering by the Northern Cape High Court in 2015 and sentenced in 2016. His co-accused Scholtz was found guilty on two counts of corruption and two counts of money laundering. They were both sentenced to an effective 15 years imprisonment after Judge Violet Phatsoane ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

The conviction and the sentences were as a result of their involvement in lease agreements exceeding R100 million that were signed by the Department of Social Development and Trifecta Group of Companies. Scholtz was the CEO of the Trifecta Group of Companies and Block, who was not an employee of the government at the time, was found to have used his political clout to influence the department to enter into these agreements in return for kickbacks.

The Northern Cape High Court also granted the Asset Forfeiture Unit a confiscation order against Scholtz in which he must pay back to the National Treasury a sum of R60 million which is regarded as the proceeds of crime.

In Block's case, a confiscation order was issued, albeit in a much lesser sum of R1 364 000. He was further ordered to pay a sum of R123 000 relating to fees and disbursement incurred by a curator appointed by the court. They both have 60 days to pay the said amounts into the account of Treasury.

The accused were found guilty for facilitating lease agreements in which the Department of Social Development was renting office space in Kimberley, Upington, Kuruman, Springbok and Douglas.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

**Enquiries:** [pshuping@npa.gov.za](mailto:pshuping@npa.gov.za)

**083 699 5900**