

Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions



The National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa
Igunya Jikelele Labetshutshisi boMzantsi Afrika
Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag van Suid-Afrika

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 21 January 2009

RE: Three arrested for fraud relating to Free State Health Department

Tel: +27 12 845 6000
Fax: +27 12 845 7291

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

P/Bag X752
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

www.npa.gov.za

Ann Voster, Nicholaas van Zyl Vermaak and Benjamin De Winnaar were arrested early this morning by the Bloemfontein office of the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO), commonly known as the Scorpions in connection with fraud, corruption and money laundering investigation amounting to approximately R9.2 million.

The office of the Auditor General identified some areas of concern relating to procurement processes in the Free State Health Department and recommended that an investigation be initiated. In April 2007 an investigation was authorised in terms of section 28 of the NPA Act to look into allegations of complicity on the part of the accused persons. The period under investigation was from April 2002 to December 2004.

The State will allege and adduce evidence to corroborate claims that Voster colluded with Vermaak and De Winnaar (both of whom were the employees of the Department) by criminally manipulating procurement and tender procedures to their advantage. Their modus operandi involved the use of a company, camouflaged as three independent business entities when bidding for tenders to supply the Department with Information Technology (IT) equipment.

The accused will face a total of 396 counts of fraud, 6 counts of corruption and 1 count of money laundering. The investigations are ongoing and more arrests will be made.

They appeared briefly before the Bloemfontein District court today and were granted bail at R10 000 each and conditions are that they surrender their passports and report to the Investigating Officer twice a week. The case has been postponed to a provisional date of 11 March 2009 in order to transfer it to the Regional Court.

Enquiries: **NPA Spokesperson**
Tlali Tlali, 082 3333 880



Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security