

# 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**

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**RE: AFU takes Paparas Assets**

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The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) of the National Prosecuting Authority yesterday obtained a Forfeiture Order in respect of a small holding, 2 sealing machines and 5 gas stoves, belonging to Dimitrio Paparas. The property is situated just outside Springs in Gauteng. Paparas was a co-accused together with Glen Agliotti and Clinton Nassif on charges of dealing in 2064kg of hashish. The investigation was conducted by the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO/Scorpions).

The Forfeiture Order flows from a Preservation Application brought by the AFU and wherein it was contended that the small holding (valued at R 650 000.00) was used for a variety of purposes associated with the manufacturing of and dealing in drugs. Not only was the property used as a storage facility to keep the stoves which contained hashish, but crates, equipment and other materials associated with storage were found inside the house on the property.

During a search of the property by the Scorpions it was evident that the house was not used as a dwelling. It was not furnished and there were no foodstuffs, linen, appliances or bedding normally associated with a dwelling. The inside walls of the house and the floors were not plastered and the ceilings were not finished.

In court papers, the AFU submitted that the property was used as a distribution point from where hashish was distributed to Europe, Pietermaritzburg and elsewhere. The sealer machines and gas stoves were found inside the house on the property and are indicative of the repacking process of the drugs that took place on the property. The garage, which is connected to the main house, also



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contained sealing equipment and machinery as well as vacuum machines. The property is surrounded by high grass, trees, palisades, walls and barbed wire and has a concealed area, approximately in the middle of the dwelling, with a large door. This concealed area is big enough for a truck to park, whilst the door is larger than a normal garage door. This concealed area and its modified door allowed for easy access to the storage offered by the house. It also shielded the operation from view. Isolated houses and plots, such as the property, are often used as a basis where drugs can be safely repacked, stored and distributed without detection.

The property will now be sold and the proceeds paid into the Criminal Asset Recovery Account. Paparas did not oppose the application. His criminal trial will commence on 14 to 16 October 2008 and 28 to 30 October 2008 in Alberton.

***Issued by the NPA Spokesperson Tlali Tlali***

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