



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL OF SOUTH AFRICA
MEDIA SUMMARY

From: The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal

Date: 29 September 2026

Status: Immediate

The following summary is for the benefit of the media in the reporting of this case and does not form part of the judgments of the Supreme Court of Appeal

Seetseng v Minister of Police and Another (1088/2024) [2026] ZASCA 128 (29 September 2026)

Today, the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) dismissed, with costs, an appeal from the North-West Division of the High Court, Mahikeng (the high court) concerning the period for which the Minister of Police (the Minister) was liable to compensate Mr Tshepiso Clifford Seetseng (Mr Seetseng) for unlawful arrest and detention.

Mr Seetseng was arrested on 7 December 2013 and remained in custody until the charges against him were withdrawn on 12 February 2015. The high court held the Minister liable only for his detention from 7 to 9 December 2013 and awarded him R60 000 in damages.

The SCA held that an unlawful arrest does not automatically make the Minister liable for the entire period of detention that follows. Different parties may be liable for different periods of detention. Importantly, Mr Seetseng's own pleadings attributed only the period from 7 to 9 December 2013 to the Minister and the remaining period to the National Director of Public Prosecutions. He was bound by the case he had pleaded.

The SCA therefore found no basis to interfere with the R60 000 award and dismissed the appeal with costs.

~ENDS~