



DRESSED FOR EXCESS: Businesswoman Shauwn Mpisane is in court yet again

Picture: TEBOGO LETSIE

## State: Risky business to give Mpisane bail

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DURBAN millionaire Shauwn Mpisane spent last night with her family after the Durban Commercial Crimes Court released the high-flying socialite on a warning. She had handed herself over to the court early yesterday morning to avoid being arrested.

On Wednesday, the Asset Forfeiture Unit descended on the Mpisanes' mansion in La Lucia and attached 10 luxury cars.

Mpisane and her husband, Sbu, a former metro policeman, are accused of submitting fraudulent information to boost their businesses' grading in order to secure

multimillion-rand contracts from the Construction Industry Development Board.

Mpisane faces 53 charges of fraud, forgery and uttering, but she smiled at family and friends and seemed relaxed on entering court.

Opposing bail, prosecutor Joanna Bromley-Gans said Mpisane had a previous conviction and had allegedly committed the crimes while out on bail in another fraud and corruption case.

"If released on bail, there's a likelihood that she will commit further [crimes] and she is likely to interfere with witnesses as it has happened in another matter

in the Pinetown Magistrate's Court," Bromley-Gans said.

The investigating officer, Colonel Kuben Naidoo — head of the anti corruption task team set up by President Jacob Zuma to investigate fraud and corruption in KwaZulu-Natal's department of public works — told the court that Mpisane had been convicted in May 2005 on 62 fraud charges and had been given a three-year suspended sentence.

"Not even a month after the conviction [she] submitted documents to different institutions. Some of the crimes were committed after she was first arrested for tax contraventions."

Mpisane, through her lawyer, Jimmy House, acknowledged that she had a previous conviction but said the current charges were based on her previous convictions.

"I have two pending cases. The first is a case of fraud and various statutory contraventions, which is presently partly heard in the Durban Regional Court.

"The charges are tax-related and also include a charge that I managed Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport in circumstances where I had a previous conviction for fraud."

The bail hearing continues today.