

Mpisane gets bail after busy week

NONDUMISO MBUYAZI

CONVICTED fraudster Shauwn Mpisane and her entourage breathed a collective sigh of relief when she was granted R100 000 bail yesterday.

The 36-year-old, accused of supplying false information to the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) for government tenders worth more than R140 million, smiled at her advocate Jimmy Howse and her former Metro Police husband, Sbu, standing behind her in the packed Durban Commercial Crime Court.

The flamboyant businesswoman will go back to their R80m Addison Road mansion in La Lucia and is expected

back in court on April 29. Handing down his bail ruling, magistrate Gerrie Maree said Mpisane should not change her residential address, leave the country or have contact with the more than 10 state witnesses.

On his decision to grant her bail, Maree said he had taken into consideration two overriding matters: that Mpisane was not a flight risk and she risked financial prejudice if she was locked up.

He also noted over 2 000 employees depended on Mpisane for their livelihood.

"I have looked at the fact that she will suffer severe financial loss if she is locked up



MPISANE

until her trial," he said.

It has been a busy week for the Mpisanes, who earlier this week had their home, 25 luxury vehicles and 35 work vehicles seized by the Asset Forfeiture Unit and taken into storage.

The court order secured by the unit also restrains their other properties and cash in bank accounts.

If she had taken any strain from this week's events, Mpisane did a good job covering it up as she remained poised and calm during the court proceedings yesterday.

She has pleaded not guilty to 53 counts of fraud, forgery and uttering of a forged document.