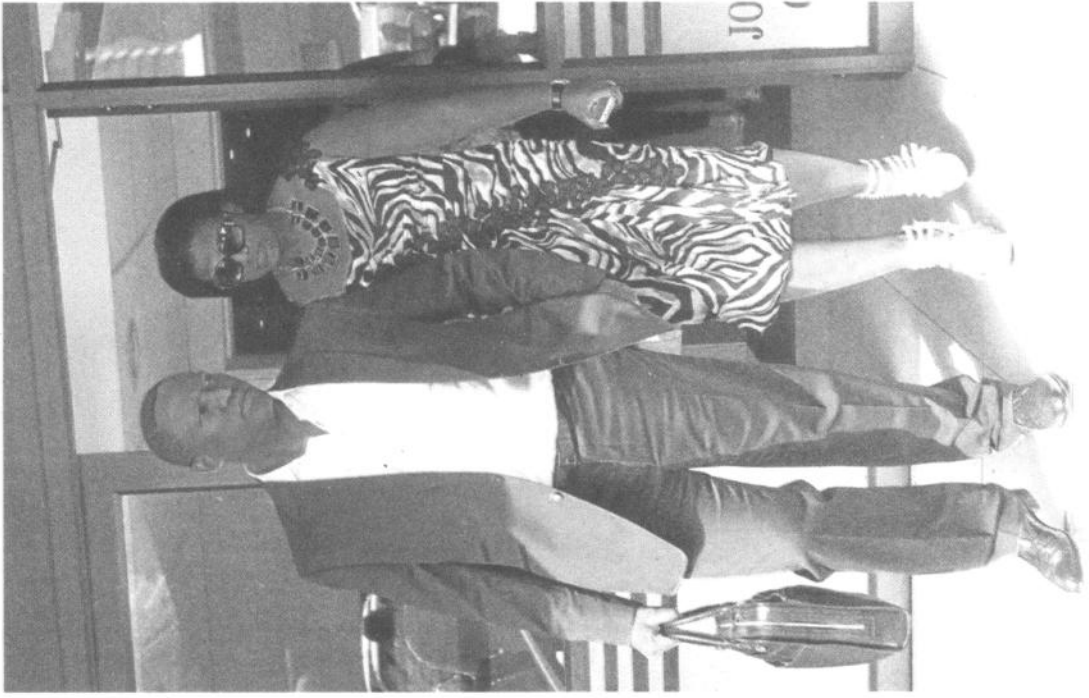


HIGH-ROLLING COUPLE'S LIFE OF LUXURY FALLS APART AS THEIR ASSETS ARE SEIZED

From bling to NPA sting

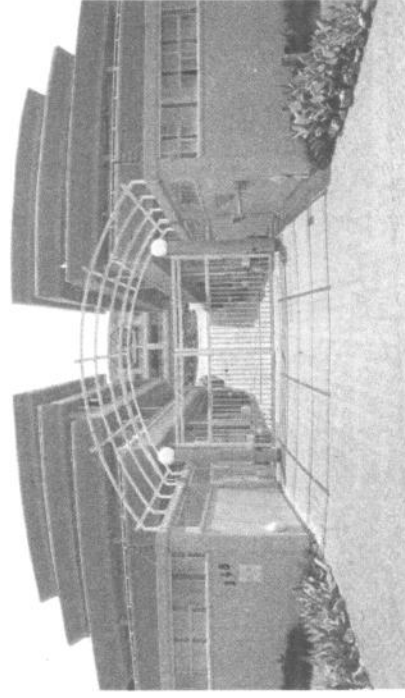
SINCE 2010, Mabongi "Shauwn" Mpisane, 37, and her husband S'bu, 42, have hogged the media spotlight for all the wrong reasons:

- **MARCH 2 2010:** The SA Revenue Service attaches the couple's Rolls-Royce Phantom convertible and two Lamborghiniis after an audit reportedly reveals that their businesses owe it about R50-million. The cars are returned once the couple make arrangements to pay.
- **MARCH 26 2011:** The couple celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary by throwing a lavish, R1-million Egyptian-themed party at the five-star Fairmont Hotel & Resort in Zimbabwe, north of Durban. Guests include President Jacob Zuma's nephew, Khulubuse Zuma, KwaZulu-Natal premier Zweli Mkhize's wife, May, and former eThekweni city manager Mike Sutcliffe.
- **SEPTEMBER 29 2011:** It emerges in the Durban Regional Court that Shauwn, in the dock to face tax fraud charges, wrote to her family friend, former national police commissioner General Bheki Cele, asking for his help in obtaining documents used to secure search warrants to raid her La Lucia mansion. At the time she, along with her company, Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport, were facing charges of fraud, forgery for allegedly submitting false VAT invoices and declaring too little VAT.
- **NOVEMBER 24 2011:** Shauwn, who in 2005 had been convicted on 62 fraud charges but was given a suspended sentence, faces fresh charges of tax fraud with a charge sheet detailing 173 charges of fraud, forgery and uttering involving R4,7-million.
- **OCTOBER 19 2012:** Shauwn is arrested by the Hawks and the anti-corruption task team for allegedly trying to bribe a witness, attorney Nliendra Shamlal Allopi, by asking him to amend invoices totalling R749 585 for her tax fraud trial, which starts in the Durban Magistrate's Court on October 22. Charged with corruption and defeating the course of justice, she is not asked to plead in the Pinetown Regional Court and is released on bail of R50 000.
- **OCTOBER 20 2012:** Opposition parties in the eThekweni Municipality call on the public protector to investigate Shauwn for alleged tender irregularities after she is awarded a R155-million contract by the municipality that month, despite facing charges of tax fraud.

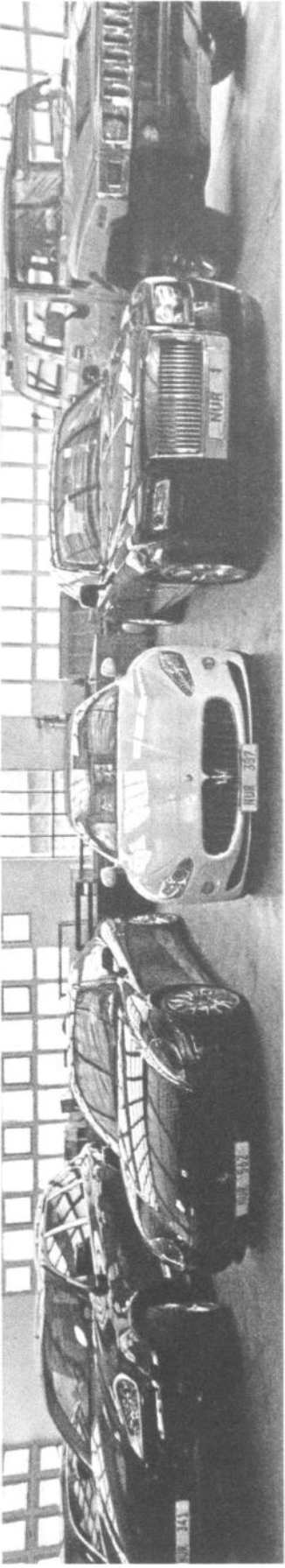
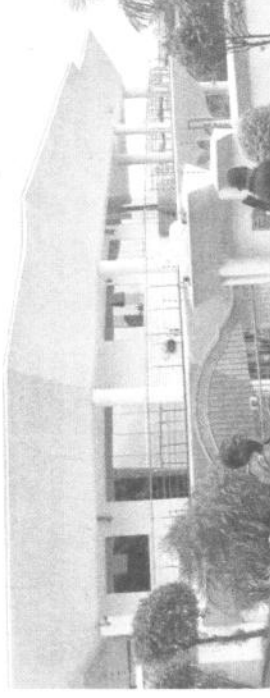


IN THE DOCK: S'bu and Shauwn Mpisane leave the Durban Commercial Crime Court this week

Pictures: THEMIBINKOSI DWAYISA



ARCHWAY TO EXCLUSIVITY: The luxury Golden Beach complex in La Mercy, where the Mpisanes own an apartment



PRIVATE FLEET: Some of S'bu and Shauwn Mpisane's luxury cars that were seized on Wednesday

Picture: TEBOGO LETSIE

Police embark on Mpisane property hunt

BONGANI MTHETHWA

THE National Prosecuting Authority's Asset Forfeiture Unit will this week attach at least seven properties owned by a wealthy Durban couple who made millions from building low-cost government houses.

The Sunday Times has established that forfeiture unit investigators have been instructed to widen their hunt for assets of fraud accused Shauwn Mpisane and her husband, S'bu, a former metro policeman, to include luxury homes across KwaZulu-Natal.

On Wednesday the unit seized assets belonging to the couple, including 62 cars estimated by authorities to be worth more than R30-million. Anti-corruption task team agents swooped on the couple's mansion in La Lucia, Durban, with an order to seize assets worth R140-million. Shauwn, who was granted R100 000 bail in the Durban Commercial Crime Court on Friday, is accused of submitting forged documents to obtain Construction Industry Development Board gradings, which were used to win government tenders worth R140-million.

The tenders were awarded to her company, Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport, between 2005 and last year.

Court-appointed curator Trevor White, who is tasked with finding and restraining all

councillor who sat on several committees, including the economic development committee. She bought the house in January 1995 for R300 000. It is valued at almost R1-million today.

The unit will also establish the ownership of three vacant plots in Hillcrest, west of Durban, each with an estimated value of between R400 000 and R580 000.

If the Mpisanes are convicted, the assets may be confiscated by the state.

Shauwn, who faces 53 charges of fraud, forgery and uttering, this week asked the court to set her bail at not more than R50 000, as her "cash reserves [are] significantly depleted".

According to a court application, the asset forfeiture order was granted on January 31 against the Mpisanes and their

Rolls-Royce Ghost, worth more than R4.8-million, and her Porsche Cayenne Turbo, worth R860 000.

Some of the couple's exotic cars seized on Wednesday include a Lamborghini Murciélago valued at about R2.2-million and registered to one of the companies.

According to the unit, most of the couple's other cars seized were "freehold" with no money owed on them.

These include Shauwn's Ferrari 612 Scaglietti, valued at more than R3-million, her silver

Rolls-Royce Ghost, worth more than R4.8-million, and her Porsche Cayenne Turbo, worth R860 000.

S'bu's seized car collection includes a Rolls-Royce Phantom, estimated to cost R6-million, a Maserati GranTurismo, worth about R950 000, and a Porsche Panamera Turbo, worth more than R900 000.

The couple have until February 28 to file replying affidavits to motivate why the order should not be made final. The case was postponed to April 29.

LIVING IT UP: Sandringham Court in Umhlanga Ridge, where the Mpisanes bought a house for R8.5-million

