

# Mpisane set for grilling over fraud counts

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**BUSINESSWOMAN** Shauwn Mpisane, who is charged with 181 counts in three cases, will spend much of her time in the dock this week.

While Mpisane only appeared briefly in the Durban Commercial Crime Court yesterday for her fraud and forgery case, she is expected to go on trial in her separate tax fraud matter on Thursday.

In yesterday's case she is charged with 53 counts of fraud, forgery and uttering relating to her alleged submission of false documentation to the Construction Industry Development Board, boosting gradings granted to her company Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport cc and resulting in her being granted five contracts, involving more than R140 million, from the Department of Public Works between 2005 and last year.

Prosecutor Joanna Bromley-



Shauwn Mpisane. PICTURE: BONGANI MBATHA

Gans asked for the case to be adjourned to July, because the State's handwriting experts are still

analysing evidence that is expected to be used at the trial.

Meanwhile, Thursday will be the official start of the State's case in the tax fraud matter after Durban Regional Court magistrate, Blessing Msani, ruled last year that documents the prosecution wanted to use were admissible.

In this matter, Mpisane and her company, Zikhulise Cleaning Maintenance and Transport, are facing 119 counts of fraud involving R4.7m for having allegedly submitted fake invoices and financial returns to the taxman.

Mpisane pleaded not guilty to the charges and in her plea statement blamed her former bookkeeper Kishal Reddy - now a key State witness - for any fraudulent tax submissions.

Reddy earlier pleaded guilty to two charges, one of forgery and another of contravening the VAT Act. He was fined R30 000, or six months' imprisonment.