

2 still up for fraud charges

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ATTEMPTS by two Manenberg men, accused of embezzling the Independent Development Trust, to have fraud charges withdrawn have failed. The two men are alleged to have submitted false financial statements, in order to obtain more than R2 million from the IDT. Frank le Roux, 55, and Albert Brown, 53, both of Manenberg, appeared yesterday in the Specialised Commercial Crime Court in Bellville, before magistrate Constance Nziweni. According to the charge sheet, the IDT was appointed by the Department of Public Works as the agent for Phase 2 of the Expanded Public Works Program. The purpose of the program was to alleviate poverty through job creation via nonprofit organisations. At the time, Le Roux and Brown were the main members of the board of the NGO Zion Pulse Community Projects (ZPCP). A contract with the IDT was concluded in July 2010, for a period of 10 months, on the understanding that ZPCP operated from a creche that Le Roux and Brown owned, on the premises of Zion Life Ministries. Prosecutor Simone Liedeman alleges that, in order to obtain the funding, ZPCP furnished the IDT with forged financial statements, supposedly drawn up by an accountant. By ANA REPORTER Creation Based on this false information, the IDT granted ZPCP an amount of R2 162 500 for the creation of 300 jobs. In addition, the IDT would pay ZPCP an amount of R50 per day, per job created. The State alleges that Le Roux and Brown fraudulently stole R570 700 of the grant. The case was postponed to February 15.