

■ POLITICS

Judgment reserved in De Lille versus DA case

Good party leader says DA continues to try to smear her good name

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GOOD leader Patricia de Lille yesterday said the application by the DA to review the order by the Electoral Commission of SA (IEC) to apologise to her was the continuation of a smear campaign against her.

De Lille made the statement after the South Gauteng High Court reserved judgment in the matter involving her and her former party, the DA.

This after the court heard arguments from the DA, De Lille and the IEC.

On April 15, the IEC ordered the DA to “cease and desist” from saying that De Lille was fired as the mayor of the City of Cape Town.

It also ordered the official opposition to publicly apologise to De Lille within three days.

But the DA has refused to do so and launched the review application saying the IEC lacked legal power to issue such a directive because it was wrong to uphold the complaint on its merits.

De Lille said: “If they have any evidence that they ever fired me through a due process, they must come up with that evidence.”

De Lille also said the DA had been trying to smear her name and make false allegations against her.

“I have won three court cases against them and this is just a continuation of that fight.”

De Lille added that it had become “quite an obsession” with the DA to keep on wanting to smear her name and attack her in public for the past two years.



GOOD party leader and Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Patricia de Lille, leaves the Johannesburg High Court. | ITUMELENG ENGLISH African News Agency (ANA)

De Lille entered into an agreement with the party to step down in 2018, and the party would then withdraw all internal charges against her following a two-year bruising fight with the DA.

But in the build up to the May elections, the DA said she was fired from her mayoral post and she jumped before she was pushed.

The Cape Town High Court had postponed an urgent application by De Lille to interdict.

DA party liaison committee representative Moriarty had said De Lille was fired by “having three successful motions of confidence against her by her own caucus”.

“It is fair comment in the political realm to thus describe her departure from the DA in these terms,” Moriarty said at the time.

Good secretary-general Brett Herron has said it was the DA that wanted disciplinary charges against De Lille withdrawn to avoid reputational dam-

age. This was after an agreement was reached that a disciplinary hearing be held in public and be opened to the media.

Herron said the DA had taken an order by agreement last November to abandon findings and recommendations of the John Steenhuisen report and that De Lille withdraw her application to compel the DA to provide her with evidence which informed the report.