

■ ARMS DEAL

Judge Seriti must pay, says EFF

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The EFF has lambasted the full bench of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria for its failure to force Judge Willie Seriti to pay personal costs following the decision of the court to set aside his controversial commission report on the R60billion country's arms.

EFF spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said Judge President Dunstan Mlambo gave a detailed account for Judge Seriti's failure in the commission's findings, but failed to make a personal costs against him – similar to those made against the Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane in the high court and Constitutional Court.

Good party leader and Public Works Minister Patricia de Lille welcomed the court's outcome.

De Lille said the arms deal saga had opened the floodgates for corruption and state capture in the country.

Seriti was probing alleged corruption and malfeasance in the R60bn arms deal and made scathing findings against De Lille including businessman Terry Crawford-Browne, Dr Richard Young, academic Raenette Taljaard and various other witnesses who testified before him.

Seriti was appointed in October 2011 and released the report on his findings on December 23, 2015.

In his findings, Judge Seriti said he found no substantive allegations of corruption against politicians and other officials, especially former SANDF's arms acquisition head, Mo Shaik, and businessman Advocate Fana Hlongwane.

However, Judge Seriti's ruling was yesterday set aside, following an application by Corruption Watch and Right2Know Campaign, for failing to meet the mandate of his appointment.

The court agreed that the Seriti Commission failed to investigate allegations that Chippy Shaik, head of arms acquisition, had solicited a \$3 million bribe for his personal use from the German Frigid Consortium.

The DA also welcomed the ruling.