

# Lindela sold for R60m at auction for Bosasa assets

## Fierce bidding began at R30m

By **Naledi Shange**

The Lindela Repatriation Centre, which houses undocumented migrants pending their deportation, was auctioned for R60m yesterday.

The fierce and competitive bidding at the auction held in Krugersdorp, on the West Rand, started at R30m.

The auctioneer stated that there was currently a lease of about R1m a month on the property with the department of public works.

The Krugersdorp-based centre is run by African Global Operations, formerly known as Bosasa.

The 26.4ha property was used as a mining compound before it was converted into a youth development and repatriation centre. It has a work-

shop, a residential development containing nine buildings and a soccer field.

Earlier this year, the DA revealed that in 2005 Bosasa had received a R1bn contract to manage the facility.

The party said this was contained in a reply to a parliamentary question from the department of home affairs, which also revealed that the contract was renewed for a further five years for an additional R500m.

Bosasa has come under the spotlight at the Zondo commission of inquiry into state capture, where allegations have been made that the company enjoyed fraudulent tenders worth billions of rands from the state for more than a decade.

Yesterday marked the second day of the three-day auc-



**The Lindela Repatriation Centre which houses undocumented migrants before their deportation has new owners. / SUNDAY TIMES**

tion, where assets including passenger and commercial vehicles, a copper plant and various commercial properties, were being sold.

Park Village Auctions and Bidders Choice received the

instruction from the appointed liquidators to dispose of the assets, which stems from subsidiaries of African Global/Bosasa in liquidation.

The companies in question are Global Technology Sys-

tems, Bosasa Properties, Rodcor, African Global Operations, Watson Corporate Academy, On-IT-1, Bosasa IT, Bosasa Supply Chain Management, Leading Prospect Trading 111, Bosasa Youth Development Centres and Black Rox Security Intelligence Services.

When news of African Global's liquidation broke earlier this year, home affairs spokesperson Siya Qoza said its contract with the company involving Lindela covered the provision of security, accommodation, catering, health services, sport and library services for the deportees.

Qoza said at the time of the announcement that the department was seeking an urgent meeting with Bosasa and would take legal advice.

He could not be immediately reached yesterday to verify the government's plan of action regarding the housing of deportees.