

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 24 FEBRUARY 2021

RE: FORMER NW FINANCE MEC AND HEALTH HOD FRAUD TRIAL GETS UNDERWAY

The High Court of South Africa: North West Division, postponed the fraud matter against the former North West (NW) Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development MEC, Wendy Nelson and former (NW) Health Department head, Andrew Lekalakala to tomorrow 25 February 2021.

On Friday, 19 February 2020, the state appointed two new prosecutors to take over the case. They subsequently requested a postponement to be given time to engage with the first three witnesses lined up to testify.

The legal representatives of both accused did not oppose the request as they also needed the state to provide them with some documents in preparation of their defence.

The two accused are facing a charge of fraud related to the appointment of Lekalakala to the position of Superintendent-General in the Department of Health, where Nelson was a member of the panel during the interview.

When the interview was conducted, it is alleged that Nelson had knowledge of Lekalakala's misrepresentation in his CV but went on to recommend him for this senior position. She also allegedly failed to disclose the misrepresentation to the then Premier of the Province, Supra Mahumapelo.

The fraud is valued at about R8m which Lekalakala received as remuneration as Superintendent-General at the Department of Health.

The state is expected to lead its evidence tomorrow when key witnesses take the stand.

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