Office of the **National Director of Public Prosecutions**



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RE: Kwazulu-Natal Health MEC and two others face corruption charges

Kwazulu-Natal Health MEC, Ms Peggy Nkonyeni and two others, Mduduzi Ntshangase and Lindilihle Mkhwanazi were arrested by the Directorate of Special Operations (Scorpions) this morning and appeared briefly before the Pietermaritzburg Regional Court. This follows an investigation that was authorised in terms of section 28(1) of the National Prosecuting Authority Act in February 2008.

They will face charges of corruption, fraud and contravention of the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act. The State will allege and adduce evidence to the effect that conduct of the accused persons criminally interfered with and/or influenced procurement procedures in order to achieve their intended outcomes when a cancer screening machine was purchased. The machine, which forms a critical part of the investigation, was seized by the Scorpions when search warrants were executed during the course of the investigation. Other allegations are being separately investigated.

Bail with conditions was fixed at R10 000 for Nkonyeni and Mkhwanazi and at R5 000 for Ntshangase. The case has been postponed to 22 January 2009 for further investigations and handing over of charge sheet the defence.

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Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security