

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MORE CHARGES TO BE ADDED AGAINST FORMER MP VINCENT SMITH

The matter of former Parliamentarian, Vincent Smith and erstwhile BOSASA Chief Operations Officer Angelo Agrizzi has been postponed to 28 September 2021.

The Investigating Directorate (ID) made an application under Section 157(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act to have the matter of the pair separated. The Palm Ridge Specialised Crimes Court granted the application to not infringe on Smith's constitutional right to fair and speedy trial.

This comes in the wake of Agrizzi's lawyer having submitted a medical report that Agrizzi is currently unfit momentarily to stand trial.

Additionally, the ID notified the court on looming additional charges to be added against Smith in the same matter.

The two have been charged with corruption while Smith faces additional charges of fraud.

The charges stem from BOSASA through Agrizzi, offering Smith gratifications in the form of security upgrades to his Gauteng home and Smith's further accepting of cash transferred into his personal bank account via the bank account of his company, Euroblitz. There are also alleged payments which were in exchange for the use of his political influence as a member of Parliament for the ruling party, to shield BOSASA from accountability for corrupting officials in the Department of Correctional Services who awarded BOSASA contracts worth billions of rands.

Smith's fraud charge emanates from his failure to disclose to the Registrar of parliamentary members' interests the gratifications that he received from BOSASA, pursuant to the alleged corrupt activities with which he, Euroblitz and Agrizzi are charged.

Sindisiwe Seboka

Investigating Directorate

Spokesperson