



SPECIAL TRIBUNAL

EST: ACT 74 OF 1996

TO: ALL MEDIA

07 October 2020

R21, 8 million Beitbridge Border Post Fence Project case to be heard at the Special Tribunal

The Special Tribunal of South Africa is scheduled to hear an urgent application to freeze the bank accounts of the two contractors that were allegedly paid an advance amount of R21, 8 million by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for the construction of the 40 kilometer borderline razor mesh fence at the Beitbridge Border post in Limpopo.

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has approached the Special Tribunal for an order freezing the bank accounts of Caledon River Properties (Pty) Ltd and Profteam CC (cited as first and second respondents) in an effort to recover an amount of R21, 8 million and interdicting the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure from making further payments in relation to the project, pending the finalisation of the main action against the respondents.

Minister Patricia de Lille, Director General Sam Vukela and Acting Chief Financial Officer, Juanita Prinsloo, have also been cited as respondents in the papers before the Special Tribunal.

The R21, 8 million payment was allegedly paid before the construction work commenced. In the alternative, the applicants contend that Caledon River Properties (Pty) Ltd and Profteam CC be expected to provide them with the bank guarantee letters in order to ensure the availability of funds pending further investigations and subsequent civil proceedings.

It is alleged that the Department, using emergency procurement processes to address, prevent and combat the spread of Covid19, unlawfully appointed the two contractors to erect and repair the borderline fence at the Beitbridge Border Post. The total contract price amounted to R40, 4 million, of which R21, 8 million had already been paid. It is contended that the said emergency procurements was not done in accordance with the law and other legislative prescripts governing procurement in state departments and that the processes were marred by allegations of irregularities.

The hearing of the application will be held at the Special Tribunal sitting at the Booyens Magistrates' Court in Johannesburg on Thursday, 08 October 2020, at 10H00.

NB: Due to the Covid19 regulations and restrictions on the numbers of people in the court building, eNCA will provide the feed of the proceedings.

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