

Estina Farm project case transferred to Bloemfontein High Court

The fraud and corruption case related to the controversial R280m Estina Dairy farm project has been transferred to the Bloemfontein High Court from the Bloemfontein Regional Court on Wednesday.



Image source: Dieter Hawlan – 123RF.com

The accused that appeared in the regional court Wednesday morning are:

- Former Mineral Resources Minister, Mosebenzi Zwane.
- Former Free State head of Department for Rural Development (FSDoRD), Peter Thabethe.
- Former Chief Financial Officer, Seipati Dhlamini.
- Former Chief Director District Services, Takisi Masiteng.
- Former Sahara employee, Ugeshni Govender.
- Islandsite former Director, Ronica Ragavan.
- Estina Director, Kamal Vasram, was added to the case, as well as eight companies.

According to the National Prosecuting Authority Investigating Directorate (NPA ID) spokesperson, Sindisiwe Seboka, the accused face charges of contravention of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), fraud, corruption and money laundering emanating from the “alleged looting of the Free State Department of Agriculture through a company called Estina”.



Hawks arrest two more people in connection with controversial Vrede dairy farm project

Nomahlubi Jordaan 15 Feb 2018



Seboka explained that in 2012, Estina and the Free State Agriculture Department entered into an agreement to establish

and implement a dairy farm project for the benefit of emerging and previously disadvantaged farmers in the Vrede area.

“In terms of the agreement, Estina was to provide a capital injection of R228m. Paras Dairy – a company incorporated in India – was presented as Estina’s partner in the Vrede Dairy Project.

“The agreement further stipulated that the department was to contribute R342m including VAT over a period of three years. Estina received R280m from July 2012 to April 2014.

“Investigations also revealed that no proper tender procedures were followed with regards the decision to fund the proposed Vrede Dairy Project. Estina did not adhere to its obligations in terms of the agreement as only the department paid its contribution into bank accounts held by Estina,” Seboka said.

The accused are expected to next appear in the Bloemfontein High Court on 25 January 2023.

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