

# Video 'shows Scorpion taking bribe'

JOHANNESBURG — A video clip apparently showing a senior Scorpions prosecutor accepting a R40 000 bribe from two awaiting-trial prisoners was shown in the Johannesburg High Court yesterday.

The video, more than 90-minutes long, was stopped halfway as the prosecutor, advocate Herman Broodryk, SC, asked for it to be continued during today's proceedings.

The video is not clearly audible, but apparently shows Scorpions prosecutor Portia Refiloe Kgantsi arriving at the Sandton police station to visit the two prisoners. Kgantsi regularly visited them to brief them on their case as she was responsible for legal aspects of the investigation.

## Regarded her as a 'demigod'

Earlier one of the prisoners, Issa Mohamadou, told the court he and co-accused John Affolabi, who has since died, regarded her as a "demigod" due to their reliance on her advice in the fraud case against them.

The camera was set up by Kgantsi's Scorpions colleagues as a trap after the two prisoners reported their dealings with her to their lawyer.

Yesterday, Mohamadou told the court that Kgantsi helped them reduce the fine they faced from R700 000 to R315 000.

They became suspicious when she told them to deposit the R315 000 into the bank account of her husband, whom she described as her colleague.

"I asked her how we could deposit money into an account of someone we did not know".

"She told us to trust her, she was there to help us."

## Asked for R40 000 in cash

She also told them to pay her R40 000 in cash — R30 000 for her contacts in the asset forfeiture unit so their properties would not be attached, and R10 000 to bribe the prosecutor to step down so that Kgantsi could take over the prosecution and get the charges withdrawn.

When Kgantsi arrived to collect the money she told them the prosecutor was waiting in her car, but when the prisoners asked someone to check they were told there was no one in the car, said Mohamadou.

They did not hand over the money and instead reported the dealings to the police and their lawyer, who set up the video-tape in which Kgantsi was allegedly caught accepting a R40 000 payment.

Kgantsi, now suspended from the Scorpions, was arrested in October after being found with R40 000, believed to have been paid to her by the two prisoners.

She faces charges of bribery, corruption, extortion and defeating the ends of justice.

She was denied bail last year by the Randburg Regional Court, which found that she was a flight risk. The trial continues. — Sapa.