

# Mpisanes back in the bad news

## **BUHLE MBONAMBI & NATHI OLIPHANT**

THE COMPANY of high-flying business couple Shauwn and Sbu Mpisane is again in the midst of controversy – this time over a housing project at KwaMbonambi, north of Empangeni.

Earlier this year, the Mpisanes disputed claims of shoddy work at the Umlazi B10 housing project.

However, the developer of the KwaMbonambi project, Ulwazi Consulting Associates, has criticised Mpisane's Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport company.

Londiwe Mthembu said: "I am not happy with the houses because of the shoddy workmanship."

The former Trans-Caledon Tunnel CEO has also been quoted as saying she will not pay until the "poor workmanship" has been corrected.

Ulwazi Consulting Associates won a R43 million contract from the Mfolozi municipality in May 2008 to build 1 000 houses, but the project has stalled.

Mfolozi Municipality housing manager Modise Magubane said Zikhulise had been brought into the project by Ulwazi without the municipality's consent.

"The building sites were handed over to Zikhulise without our knowl-

edge. The only time we got to know that there was another contractor on site was when there were troubles about delayed payments by Ulwazi."

He added that Zikhulise had been brought in in April to speed up the development of the houses.

"At the time, Ulwazi had managed to build only 119 housing units and the municipality was putting pressure on the implementing agent (Ulwazi) to perform," Magubane said.

Various meetings to resolve the situation had not yet yielded results, Magubane added.

Yesterday Shauwn Mpisane said there was nothing to argue about. Ulwazi had to pay her.

Mpisane said her company had previously been accused of shoddy workmanship, but on investigation eThekweni municipal manager Mike Sutcliffe, provincial

Human Settlements Minister Maggie Govender and the National Home Builders Registration Council described the company's work as "good". She said the was a "snag list" with any building project.

The DA's housing spokesman, George Mari, said he would ask questions about the tender in Parliament.

"We will call on the department to ensure that Ulwazi is held accountable for the delivery of quality houses."



**LONDIWE MTHEMBU**