

Bail hearing for Joburg 'land fraud' lawyers

ANÉL LEWIS

THE TWO attorneys linked to the fraudulent transfer of millions of rands worth of City of Johannesburg land were due to hear today whether they would be granted bail.

The State last week postponed the bail applications of Peet Viljoen and Edwin Maringa, as there were concerns that they would intimidate

state witnesses.

National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga said their bail application would be heard in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court.

The men were arrested on charges of fraud and racketeering.

The three cases of the three women who were arrested with Viljoen and Maringa were postponed until September 20 to allow for more

investigation. They were released last week on bail of R5 000 each.

Ronel van Vuuren and Anele van der Berg work in Viljoen's Pretoria office. The third woman, Dorah Madisa, is an assistant property portfolio manager for the Johannesburg Property Company.

Viljoen handled the transfer of about 33 tracts of land, including prime public land and parts of the

Norscot Koppies and Kingfisher Nature Reserve, for a company called Eildoug. The land was then sold to other companies, including two companies financed by well-known property mogul Zunaïd Moti.

Some of the land transfers took place on the same day or overnight.

Viljoen is also under investigation by the Law Society for the Northern Provinces for claims of misconduct.

