

Reconcile, CCMA tells SABC, Snuki

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) has postponed for two weeks the matter opposing suspended director of news Snuki Zikalala to the SABC, to give the two parties time and space to work out their differences in order to reach an agreement.



By Issa Sikiti da Silva 19 Jun 2008

Zikalala presented his case yesterday, Wednesday, 18 June 2008, to the Johannesburg-based labour court for what it termed 'unfair labour practices' on the part of the public broadcaster after he was suspended by thrice-suspended CEO Dali Mpofo on 6 May for leaking confidential documents. Mpofo himself was suspended a day later by the board in what many observers believe was an act of revenge for suspending 'board-friendly' Zikalala.

Due to the confidentiality of the matter, neither party is willing to comment. But a source told Bizcommunity.com last night: "Yes, Snuki is definitely coming back now that Dali is out in the cold. He was the one who booted him out and now that he is gone, Snuki's way is wide open. He is a friend of the board, so they want it back as soon as possible. I am sure they will work things out for peace's sake."

Should the process of conciliation and mediation fail, the matter will then be heard for arbitration.

Snubbed by the board, 'lonely' and 'unwanted', Mpofo is expected to go to court next week to have his three-month suspension set aside. He was given his marching orders last week Thursday for, among other things, challenging the board in court, losing the broadcasting rights and overseeing massive financial mismanagement. He allegedly spent R144 million between April 2006 and March 2008 without any proof of contract. All the charges are detailed in a five-page document leaked to the media this week.

Meanwhile, the SABC Senior Management Forum (SMF), a group comprised of more than 100 managers impatiently waiting to hear if president Thabo Mbeki will dismiss the board by Friday.

SMF spokesperson Siphiso Sithole said that they handed a letter to the President, requesting him to sack the board because it is unfit to govern and lacks moral authority. The SMF also wants Mpofo to be reinstated.

The crisis has brought the Auckland Park institution to a standstill and seriously affected its much-publicised philosophy 'Broadcasting for Total Citizen Empowerment'.

The drama continues.

ABOUT ISSA SIKITI DA SILVA

Issa Sikiti da Silva is a winner of the 2010 SADC Media Awards (print category). He freelances for various media outlets, local and foreign, and has travelled extensively across Africa. His work has been published both in French and English. He used to contribute to Bizcommunity.com as a senior news writer. [View my profile and articles...](#)