

Community station shut for 'not paying rent'

A popular Free State community radio station has been forced off the airwaves after the sheriff locked down its offices.

By Mbgomotsi Selebi, Free State Correspondent ^{26 Jul 2013}

Mosupatsela FM, which broadcasts from Botshabelo near Bloemfontein and has a reported listenership of 200,000, owes its landlord DMN Family Trust rent.

The station's offices were locked last week by the sheriff after the station defaulted on its monthly R8,000 rent.

Station manager Sello Mosala said items such as sofas and computers were seized by the sheriff.

The case was postponed in the Bloemfontein magistrate's court yesterday.

Magistrate Letlhogonolo Moeng will hear final arguments today before ruling on whether the station should be moved out of the building at the Botshabelo shopping complex or not.

Mosala admitted at some point they owed money to DMN Family Trust, but insisted they have since paid a the money.

Sowetan has seen proof of payment made to DMN Family Trust. On 26 March, R8,300 was paid and then 19 April, R16,000.

On 11 May, another R16,000 was paid, bringing the total amount to R40,300.

Asked why they defaulted on their payments, Mosala said: "We rely completely on advertising as we do not get any subsidy from government. Without advertising, it gets difficult. It was the case during that period because we were not getting enough advertising."

A representative of DMN Family Trust, who identified himself as Justin, but refused to give his full name, declined to comment.

Source: Sowetan, via I-Net Bridge