

Former Gov't Minister and Personal Assistant Charge for Larceny

Former Minister of Public Service Dr. Jennifer Westford and her Personal Assistant Margaret Cummings made their second court appearance on Monday 22nd February, 2016 for report on their matter before Magistrate Judy Latchman in the Georgetown Magistrates' Court 3.

When the duo first appeared before Magistrate Latchman on Tuesday February 1, 2016, for the offence of alleged larceny in excess of \$639 Million Guyana Dollars, they were both granted bail in the sum of \$200,000 on each of the 24 charges, a grand total of \$4.8 million.

Westford was arraigned on four counts of Attempting to commit Larceny while Cummings answered to four counts of Forgery. They are represented by a battery of lawyers headed by Senior Counsel Rex Mckay in association with Attorneys Neil Boston, Bibi Shadick, Dexter Dodd and others. Police Prosecutor Cpl. Bharrat Mangru is prosecuting the matter.

The prosecution's case is that between October 2011 and April 2015, the two, while being employees of the Government of Guyana, stole the sum of \$639,420,000. The allegations presented in Court state that from 2011 to 2015, while performing the functions of Minister of Public Service, Westford signed 24 memoranda vouchers totalling the sum of \$639,420,000 and sent them to the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the President to be approved for use in the ten administrative regions in Guyana. Subsequent investigations by the Guyana Police Force revealed no trace of documentation to prove how and when the monies were spent.

Westford and Cummings are each on four other charges for the offence of Attempt to Commit a Felony involving vehicles and were granted \$800,000 bail each when they appeared in the Georgetown Magistrates' Court on July 29, 2015. This matter is set for trial on April 18, 2016 in Court 5.

