Babi's bail appeal judgment is not ready

Eba Kandovazu

JUDGEMENT in the matter where Prophet Jackson Babi is appealing a decision that denied him bail will be handed own later this week.

Babi is appealing a judgment handed down by a magistrate in the lower court.

High Court Judge Herman January indicated that he will be ready to hand down a ruling in the appeal on 30 July 2021.

Babi was arrested on poaching charges and possession of a cellphone while in police custody as well as attempted bribery.

In his heads of argument, Babi claims that during the bail application, no evidence was provided to show he would interfere with investigations if he is granted bail.

The state is objecting to the granting of bail on the grounds of the seriousness of the offence, fear of interference with investigations and public interest.

AWAITING JUDGEMENT: Prophet Jackson Babi in the dock of the Windhoek High Court.
Photo by Eba Kandovazu

Babi also contends that the fact that there was no public demonstration or public petition against him is grounds for his release on bail.

Babi, in the bribery matter, is accused of attempting to bribe a police officer to the tune of N$13 000. An usher of his church, one Ananias Ananias was arrested for delivering the money. He was later released after the Prosecutor General decided she would not prosecute him.

It was found that Ananias did not know what the money was going to be used for.

Investigating officers in the matter testified that Ananias was brought under the impression that the money was supposed to be used as payment for one of the prophet's lawyers.

Babi, in his heads of argument, however, claimed that Ananias had admitted his guilt in court and said that the bribery was in fact his idea.

"Ananias already intended to plead guilty to the offence of bribery way before he knew that the charges would be withdrawn against him," Babi said.

Windhoek Lawyer Mbanga Siyomunji is representing Babi in the appeal, while Seredine Jacobs represents the prosecution.