

Charges against dead Karamath dropped

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CHARGES against deceased business contractor Hafeez Karamath in relation to the Desalination Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Desalcott) have been dismissed. Newsday understands the charges were dismissed by acting Chief Magistrate Sherman Mc Nicolls in February.

Karamath, formerly of Palm Road, Valsayn, died on November 22, following a prolonged illness. Legal sources yesterday indicated that the charges were subsisting against Karamath's construction company Hafeez Karamath Construction (HKL) Ltd.

Israeli nationals Joseph Ben Dak and Daniel Hoffman also remain charged. They are yet to be extradited to TT to face the courts, despite efforts from the office of the Attorney General.

The matter comes up for hearing again before Wellington in the Port-of-Spain Eighth Court on September 3.

It is alleged that between January 1, 1998 and August 25, 1999, the accused conspired together to defraud the State with a view to gain for themselves by dishonestly arranging a water supply contract to be awarded to a joint venture between HKL and Ionics, known as the Desalination Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Desalcott) by the State through the Water and Sewerage Authority.