

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA welcomes successful prosecution of educator who defrauded Limpopo Department of Education**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the successful prosecution of an educator who defrauded the Limpopo Department of Education by doing business with the Department with her own transportation company without disclosing that she was an employee.

The educator also had no authority to do remunerative work outside the public service. Although the matter took a long time to investigate, the Special Investigation Unit received a proclamation to investigate serious maladministration between the employee and the Limpopo Department of Education after allegations of unlawful conduct as far as 2012. The matter was subsequently handed to the Hawks Serious Commercial Investigation Unit in 2019 for further investigation, which led to the tracing of the culprit and her appearing in court on 29 August 2024 where she pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years imprisonment or a R50 000 fine.

This successful prosecution is welcomed as it sends a strong message that corruption has no place in the Limpopo Provincial Administration. It will serve as a deterrent to those who are continuously practising maladministration and unduly enriching themselves from government coffers. This case is a typical example of weaknesses in the government system as the educator used her own company with her details such as an identity document as a director, which should have been easily detected. The PSA calls on the Limpopo Premier to collaborate with the State Information Technology Agency to ensure that government applications and systems interface to limit and eradicate such incidents. The capturing on the system of a service provider who is a government employee should immediately prevent capturing and raise an alert.

Many genuine service providers are losing business opportunities to undeserving and connected individuals, which is destroying small businesses, making this prosecution critical. The PSA trusts that bigger culprits, and not only lower-level employees, will be facing prison sentences for their corrupt activities, particularly regarding tenders. All guilty persons, irrespective of their positions and status in society, must be held accountable if corruption is to be eradicated.

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