

MEDIA RELEASE

**Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: PSA
welcomes finding of disciplinary hearing**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decision by the chairperson of a disciplinary hearing for finding a PSA member at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development not guilty on allegations of misconduct.

The Department served the member with eight allegations of misconduct related to, amongst others, contravention of the procedure manual, gross dereliction of duties, gross dishonesty, and misrepresentation in 2021. The allegations were based on the Department losing some 102 cattle. The member immediately approached the PSA for assistance and pleaded not guilty on all allegations.

The Department called eight witnesses during the disciplinary hearing to prove the allegations against the member. The PSA argued during the hearing that the member did not commit the alleged acts and called two witnesses. The PSA also submitted documents that proved the allegations to be untrue. The Department failed to prove the allegations on the balance of probabilities, taking into consideration its witnesses and submitted documents. The PSA further assisted the member with closing arguments. The chairperson of the hearing subsequently found the member not guilty on all allegations.

The PSA was, however, shocked to learn that four more members were recently served by the Department with allegations of misconduct for the same alleged offences. The Department is clearly on a witch-hunt to find an employee to blame for this incident, which happened in 2020. The PSA will, however, protect the rights of the Union's members in this matter.

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