

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA urges Limpopo Office of Premier to launch qualification verification amidst allegation of senior manager falsifying qualifications**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the integrity of recruitment processes at the Office of the Premier in Limpopo following the arrest and appearance at the Polokwane Magistrate Court of a Senior Manager for allegedly falsifying qualifications.

The Human Resources (HR) Policy and Prescripts require that the Department must verify the qualifications and experience of job applicants. The PSA is aware that there was a dispute at the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council where the unsuccessful candidate challenged the appointment of the said official and the issue of qualifications was raised. However, the employer did not investigate the matter further, which means that the Office of the Premier supports non-compliance to HR prescripts. The question arising from this situation is how many employees, particularly those in senior management whose recruitment processes are not subjected to oversight by unions, are enjoying salaries and full benefits without proper qualifications. As recently as a year ago, it was reported that 1 800 senior managers did not possess the minimum qualification to work in the Public Service. This number excluded those who might have falsified their qualifications.

The non-compliance with the Recruitment and Selection Policy not only caused embarrassment to the Office of the Premier, but resulted in financial losses as that Office was ordered to pay the unsuccessful candidate over R1 million. Based on this, the PSA calls on the Office of the Premier to launch a qualification verification for all senior managers to ensure that all managers are legitimately occupying their positions and that those who failed to do their job in verifying qualifications, causing embarrassment and financial loss through their negligence, be held accountable.

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