

MEDIA RELEASE

Sherrif attaches assets of Limpopo Department of Health to comply with arbitration awards

DATE

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is frustrated with the Limpopo Department of Health's continuous failure to comply with an arbitration award secured on 20 November 2023.

The Department's disregard for legal obligations has resulted in prolonged delays in justice for affected employees, forcing the PSA to take stringent measures to ensure compliance. During arbitration proceedings, the Department finally acknowledged its debt and committed to settling the outstanding amounts for two PSA members by 31 March 2024. Its failure to meet this deadline led to the judicial attachment of a departmental vehicle valued at R200 000 on 29 August 2024. The Department was given until 29 September 2024 to settle the debt, yet it ignored the deadline. This compelled the PSA to instruct the Sheriff to remove the attached asset in October 2024.

The enforcement process encountered further obstacles when it was revealed on 28 November 2024 that the Department had made a bulk payment of approximately R2 million to the Sheriff to clear multiple outstanding enforcement orders. It was, however, later established that the payment for this particular case had not been included. Despite continued efforts by the PSA, the Sheriff failed to act throughout December 2024 and January 2025, causing additional delays.

On 30 January 2025, as the Sheriff was prepared to execute the removal of the vehicle, the Department's legal representative attempted to plead for an extension, offering a written commitment to pay the outstanding monies into the Sheriff's account by 15 February 2025. The PSA categorically rejected this request and insisted that the attached vehicle be removed without further delay. Subsequent follow-ups with the Sheriff and PSA shop stewards revealed that more than seven other vehicles were also recently removed from the Department's Head Office in Polokwane.

In a surprising turn of events, the Department itself delivered the attached vehicle in question to the Office of the Sheriff on 19 February 2025, seemingly in an attempt to avoid further embarrassment. This situation raises serious concerns regarding the Department's financial management and accountability. The PSA demands that the Head of Department acts swiftly to honour legal obligations, prevent further embarrassment, and put an end to financial waste. Failure to comply with legally binding rulings will not be tolerated, and the PSA will persist in ensuring that justice is served.

END