

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

04-07-2023

Victory for PSA members

Five employees who are also members of the PSA, were charged with failure to ensure that all animals at the Mara Research Station are properly marked as per clause 10 of 2020 procedure manual, contravention of section 7(1)(b) of the *Animal Identification Act No 6 of 2002*, read with clause 16 of 2020 procedure manual and contravention of section 45(D) of the *Public Finance Management Act No 1 of 1999*.

The PSA was shocked by the unashamed abuse of power by the employer who deliberately embarked on a witch hunt in that these employees were charged with similar charges that were formulated against the former farm manager, although he could not be found guilty. After the Department failed to prove its case against the former manager, it decided to charge these five employees with the same charges. This is a clear abuse of power and subjecting the employees to unnecessary distress.

From the onset the PSA held that the Department had abused the disciplinary process by charging a further five employees for the same allegations of misconduct as the former farm manager who had been appointed as custodian of the Departmental biological asset register, and who is therefore accountable, in terms of the Public Service prescripts. The five members were falsely implicated, and their names were slandered in the media following Scopa hearings earlier this year. This caused undue stress, embarrassment, and uncertainty. The Presiding Officer found that the Department had failed to prove that the members were guilty of misconduct.

The PSA will continue to fight for members against arrogant, abusive, and non-caring employers who want to abuse, harass, and bully employees. No one should suffer in silence. The PSA will be there to fight for members and ensure that they are not subjected to unfair labour practices or unfair discrimination. Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995, Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957 or the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500.

GENERAL MANAGER