



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **MPUMALANGA**

04-12-2025

Victory for PSA member in Mpumalanga

The PSA successfully represented a Driver at the Mpumalanga Department of Education who had been charged with failing to include a passenger in his approved trip authority and causing damage to a state vehicle whilst driving above the lawful speed limit.

During preparation for the hearing, it became clear that the member had received a telephonic instruction from his supervisor to travel to an additional point not covered by the original authority, and it was during this extended portion of the trip that the accident occurred. Unfortunately, the member was unable to obtain the source document that would have authorised this deviation, nor could he prove the verbal instruction, as the supervisor distanced himself from the matter once the accident took place. With no documentary evidence to rely on, the member had no viable defence and had no option but to express remorse. Noting that this was his first offence, the PSA argued strongly for rehabilitation rather than punitive action. The Chairperson accepted these submissions and issued a lenient sanction consisting of five days' suspension without pay, which is an outcome that protected the member from harsher consequences.

This case serves as a reminder to all PSA members to never rely on verbal or telephonic instructions when using state vehicles or performing official duties, as such directives cannot be proven later. The PSA continues to encourage members to always insist on written instructions to ensure a reliable paper trail and safeguard themselves should disputes arise.

Employees who wish to join PSA can contact Sylvia Watkins on 082 880 8940, Thandiwe Mziyako on 060 962 8512, and Benedict Mdluli on 081 016 5118.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER