

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 March 2025

COURT RULES AGAINST A FORMER SACAA EXECUTIVE

Midrand, South Africa – The High Court of Pretoria has ruled against a former South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) executive who made false and malicious allegations against senior SACAA officials following the non-renewal of his employment contract. These actions were also in breach of his employment contract.

Mr Peter Mashaba was employed by the SACAA under a five-year fixed-term contract as the Executive of the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) from 7 September 2016 to 6 September 2021.

Upon the expiration of his contract, Mashaba filed a dispute with the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration (CCMA), claiming that he had a reasonable expectation of contract renewal. He also alleged that the non-renewal of his contract amounted to victimisation by the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA), linking it to a purported warning he made regarding the tragic crash of the SACAA-operated Cessna S550 in January 2020.

Mashaba further made these public statements, with the intent to create a false impression, maliciously suggesting that the non-renewal of his fixed-term contract was linked to information regarding the tragic aircraft accident.

In response to these false claims, the SACAA approached the court urgently, demanding that Mashaba cease and desist from spreading false information and defaming senior SACAA employees. The court ruled in favour of the SACAA on the cease-and-desist charge, ordering Mashaba to pay costs, which remain unpaid to this day. The SACAA is dealing with the recovery of its costs.

Regarding the defamation case, the SACAA demanded that Mashaba retract his defamatory statements. When he refused to do so, the SACAA filed a defamation claim against him. The case was eventually resolved through a settlement agreement, which was made an order of the High Court in January 2025. As part of the settlement, the order pronounced and ordered as follows:

- Mashaba was directed not to act in contravention of his fixed term contract concluded with the SACAA.
- Mashaba was directed to within 10 days of the order to retract the following statements and post a formal retraction of these statements on the same platforms on which he published such statements:
 - That the non-renewal of his contract by the DCA are tantamount to victimisation, and
 - That he warned the SACAA executives including the DCA, that on 22 December 2019 that the ZS-CAR aircraft was going to crash if nothing was done, and that
 - Both these statements he issued are false and defamatory

Despite these court orders, Mashaba has failed to comply by retracting his defamatory statements in line with the court order, remaining in contempt of the court order. The SACAA reserves the right to take further steps to enforce compliance.

Additionally, Mashaba had previously lodged a complaint with the Public Protector against the DCA and the SACAA Board. However, the Public Protector found no substantiation for his allegations. Lastly, the labour dispute raised by Mashaba regarding the non-renewal of his contract was resolved in the SACAA's favour through both the CCMA and the Labour Court, which ruled that Mashaba was not unfairly dismissed, as his contract had expired.

The SACAA takes its responsibilities and reputation in the global aviation space very seriously, and the baseless claims made by Mashaba serves to undermine and damage the image of the Regulator.

The SACAA, as a regulatory body, aims to eliminate any uncertainties regarding its integrity and standing, particularly as it plays a vital role in aviation safety and security. It is essential for the public, industry stakeholders, and international partners to maintain trust in the SACAA's integrity, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to aviation safety and security.

The SACAA therefore views Mashaba's allegations and his failure to comply with a court order in a serious light, as they undermine the credibility of the authority. The SACAA remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the highest standards of accountability and transparency in all its operations.

ENDS

For SACAA media-related communication and interviews:

Sisa Majola

Manager : Communications

Contact : 083 313 0754

Email : Majolas@caa.co.za

Ayanda Manunga

Senior Manager: Communications and Stakeholder Relations

Contact: 079 496 7077

Email: Manungaa@caa.co.za