

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SACAA ACKNOWLEDGES LABOUR COURT RULING THAT ABSOLVES THE ORGANISATION FROM WRONGDOING

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) acknowledges and welcomes the Labour Court ruling that has exonerated the organisation from any wrongdoing concerning the non-renewal of the contract of its former employee, Mr. Peter Mashaba.

This matter was presented before the court on 17 October 2024, where Acting Judge Snyman dismissed the case on the basis that Mr. Mashaba did not possess sufficient prospects of success in his review application. Mr. Mashaba had approached the Labour Court after the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) ruled against his claim.

In a ruling delivered on 27 July 2022, CCMA Commissioner Ronel de Wet issued an arbitration award favouring the SACAA, concluding that Mr. Mashaba had not established the existence of a dismissal, as his contract had reached its natural conclusion.

Mr Mashaba was employed by the SACAA under a five-year fixed-term contract as Executive: Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) from 07 September 2016 to 06 September 2021.

Upon the expiration of his contract, Mr. Mashaba filed an unfair dismissal dispute with the CCMA, contending that he had a reasonable expectation of contract renewal. He also alleged that the non-renewal of his contract was related to ongoing investigations into the tragic and unfortunate crash of the SACAA-operated Cessna S550 that occurred in January 2020, an allegation that is regrettable, distasteful, insensitive, and malicious.

Clearly this was a false narrative meant to project the organisation in a bad light by creating a false impression devoid of the truth.

Now that this ruling has put matters into perspective and clears any misconceptions that were created by his reasons for exiting the organisation, the SACAA can continue to focus its attention on delivering on its mandate of ensuring that the South African skies remain safe for travellers.

It also needs to be placed on record that the SACAA has always been committed to upholding exemplary human resources, practices, and sound employee relations in accordance with applicable legislative requirements.

ENDS

For SACAA media-related communication and interviews:

Sisa Majola

Manager : Communications

Contact : 083 313 0754

Email : Majolas@caa.co.za

Tshepo Mokono

External Communications Specialist

Contact: 066 248 9099

Email: Mokonot@caa.co.za