

Media Release

To: All Media
Date: Thursday, 15 August 2024
Embargo: For Immediate Release

PRASA ANNOUNCES THE TERMINATION OF MR. ZOLANI MATTHEWS' SERVICES

15 August 2024, Johannesburg – The Board of Control (BOC) of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) has announced the termination of Mr. Zolani Matthews' employment with immediate effect.

PRASA Board Chairperson, Nosizwe Nokwe-Macamo, said the termination of Mr. Matthews' employment was in line with his contract and in the interest of PRASA and all rail passengers, as the rail agency remains focused on reopening all rail corridors and refurbishing more stations.

"PRASA has made significant progress in getting South Africa's passenger rail service back on track, with 31 of the 40 rail corridors opened and functioning at limited capacity. The Board cannot afford to be distracted from delivering on PRASA's core mandate of transporting commuters safely and cost-effectively," said Ms. Nokwe-Macamo.

The Board had intended to reach an amicable agreement with Matthews but attempts to do so failed, leaving PRASA with no choice but to terminate Mr. Matthews' contract, said Ms. Nokwe-Macamo.

"In compliance with the Labour Court judgment of 1 July 2024, PRASA reinstated Mr. Matthews and paid to him the backdated remuneration as contemplated in the ruling. PRASA had engaged with Mr. Matthews and his legal team to discuss the implications of the judgment and to find a settlement. However, given that the attempts to reach agreement have failed, a settlement is no longer an option," said Ms. Nokwe-Macamo.

Ms. Nokwe-Macamo added: "In this regard, PRASA has taken the decision to terminate Mr.

Matthews' fixed term contract under clause 11.2 of his contract. Mr. Matthews will be paid out for the remainder of his contract, thereby bringing certainty regarding the leadership of

PRASA.”

The Board Chairperson said PRASA was well on its way to recover rail service in South Africa.

She said: “PRASA is steadily improving its performance through the recovery of passenger rail services, improved safety and security, the acceleration of project implementation through the capital programmes and modernization projects, as well as enhancing revenue, containing costs, and dealing with governance.

“We would like to reassure our passengers and stakeholders that PRASA is firmly focused on delivering on the expectations of our shareholder, the government of South Africa, and the public.

We have a passionate and professional Board which has been steering PRASA through difficult times. We also have a strong management team led by GCEO Hishaam Emeran and, as the Board, we have every confidence in their ability to achieve the strategic objectives of PRASA and manage the current challenges. PRASA is in good hands as it moves forward with investments in multibillion rand future projects, including the opening of new lines and the introduction of new trains,” concludes Nosizwe Nokwe-Macamo.

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