

## Media Release

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### **PRASA ANNOUNCES THE TERMINATION OF MR ZOLANI MATTHEWS' SERVICES**

*Johannesburg, 15 August 2024* – 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.

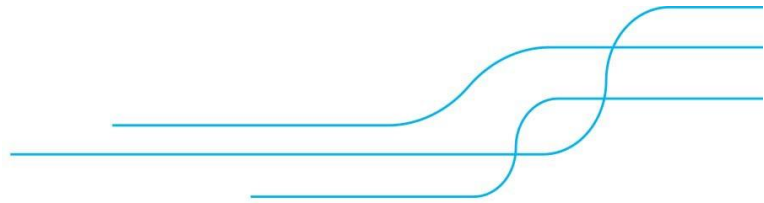
"In compliance with the Labour Court judgment of 1 July 2024, PRASA reinstated Mr Matthews and paid to him the backdated remuneration as contemplated in the ruling. PRASA had engaged with Mr Matthews and his legal team to discuss the implications of the judgment and to find a settlement. However, given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

"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," said Ms Nokwe-Macamo.

**Media Contact Person**  
Name: Andiswa Makanda  
Contact Details:  
Email: [andiswa.makanda@prasa.com](mailto:andiswa.makanda@prasa.com)

Umjantshi House  
30 Wolmarans Str.  
Braamfontein  
2001

Private Bag X101  
Braamfontein 2107  
T+ 27 11 013 1667



The Board Chairperson said PRASA was well on its way to recover rail services in SouthAfrica.

“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 modernisation 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 multi-billion rand future projects, including the opening of new lines and the introduction of new trains,” concluded Nosizwe Nokwe-Macamo.

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