

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: PRASA OFFICIAL DENIED BAIL

The Germiston Magistrates Court refused to grant bail to Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) manager, Pontso Richard Moyo earlier today.

However, his co-accused, Edgar Paul Gumede, was released on R40 000 bail. Both men opted not to testify but filed affidavits in support of their bail application. The affidavit of the investigating officer was filed by the state, opposing their release on bail on grounds that it was not in the interest of justice to give them bail. The NPA argued that the two were charged with offences of a serious nature and if convicted, they may face imprisonment ranging from 15 years to life imprisonment. This was incentive enough for them to evade trial and that they may tamper with evidence or may intimidate state witnesses as they are known to the accused.

The court ruled that the interest of justice does not permit the release on bail of Moyo, citing that his familiarity and relationship with state witnesses who are also PRASA employees could not be ignored. In addition, Moyo is a manager at PRASA and therefore their senior, was incentive enough for him to intimidate state witnesses and tamper with crucial evidence.

In assessing Gumede's bail application, the court took into consideration that Gumede's defence was that he acted bona fide in that Moyo asked him to keep PRASA's property in safe storage as he has lodged complaints of theft with PRASA without any success. Furthermore, that he left PRASA years ago and therefore does not carry the same interest as Moyo when it comes to state witnesses. The court took into account that he is breadwinner that owns a private company, employing 14 people and that his continuous detention may place his business in jeopardy, resulting in job losses.

The matter was postponed to 10 September 2020 for further investigations.

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