

MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: NONE

SAOU DENOUNCES TAMPERING OF THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Today the SAOU won a resounding victory in the Labour Court in Johannesburg against the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE).

The matter stems from the ongoing and controversial disciplinary process against Mrs Erasmus, principal of Pretoria High School for Girls.

Despite various investigations initiated by the GDE, the findings of which were not disclosed to the parties concerned, the Department has also failed to comply with the prescribed grievance procedure, which applies to all employees.

The Labour Court ordered that the GDE must conclude the formal grievance lodged by Mrs Erasmus regarding her treatment by the Department within 30 days. Furthermore, the GDE was ordered to pay the legal fees of the SAOU, which acted on behalf of Mrs Erasmus, on a punitive scale.

This ruling once again sends a powerful message to all employers in the education sector: procedures and rights cannot be taken lightly. The SAOU will always act steadfastly in protecting the interests of its members.