



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA SUMMARY – JUDGMENT DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL

From: The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal

Date: 31 May 2011

Status: Immediate

Please note that the media summary is intended for the benefit of the media and does not form part of the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal

THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE MEDICAL SCHEME ('POLMED') &
ANOTHER v A R LAMANA & OTHERS

1. Three serving members of the South African Police Services brought an application against the Police Medical Scheme, Polmed, and its administrator, to compel the latter to pay benefits to which the members were entitled directly into a bank account nominated by them but not held in any of their names.
2. Polmed refused to do so because it suspected that a fraud was being perpetrated on it by the members' doctor — which the doctor denied.
3. A year before the appeal, the Rules of Polmed were amended rendering the appeal academic. Polmed did not tell the court granting leave to appeal, nor the appeal court, of the amendments until the day of the hearing of the appeal.
4. The appeal was dismissed because the order sought would have no practical effect or result and Polmed was ordered to pay the members' costs of appeal.

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