

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	Department of Correctional Services again ordered by Labour Court to reinstate transport for employees
<b>DATE</b>	27 July 2012
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	Monica Venter 082 880 8985

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The Department of Correctional Services has lost a second application to the Labour Court for leave to appeal against a ruling that it should re-instate transport between work and home for its employees.

The Public Servants Association (PSA) took the DCS on dispute after it unilaterally and without any consultation cancelled the transport of its employees between their home and workplace. The arbitration award was in favour of the employees but the DCS refused to implement this and approached the Labour Court for a review. The Labour Court, however, ruled in favour of the PSA and the review application was set aside.

“The action by the DCS resulted in many employees working various shifts being left stranded at late hours of the day and at night without any transport available to either home or work. There is a policy in the DCS that regulates such transport owing to the unavailability of public transport in the areas where prisons are located as well as the difficult shift system that is used by the DCS”, said PSA Provincial Manager in Gauteng, Monica Venter.

The DCS then again approached the Court with an application for leave to appeal. This application was dismissed by the Labour Court on 24 July 2012 with cost.

“The ruling once again confirms the fact that the DCS had no right to unilaterally cancel the agreement on transport of its employees, who are mostly shift workers and cannot make use of public transport. Transport between home and workplace has been a benefit for DCS employees for many years and cannot be ended unilaterally”, said PSA Provincial Manager in Gauteng, Monica Venter.

“The PSA regards the conduct by the DCS as, apart from being unsympathetic towards its employees, as delaying tactics and an absolute waste of tax payers’ money”, said Venter.

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