

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL (KZN) DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DCS) – PIETERMARITZBURG AREA

15-04-2020

Update: Concerns over transfer of offenders by DCS

Members have raised concerns about the transfer of offenders from Estcourt Correctional Centre to Durban Westville Juvenile Centre as well from Waterval Hospital section to Ncome and Glencoe Hospital sections.

The PSA had a meeting with the Regional Head of Corrections on 14 April 2020 to obtain clarity on the transfer of offenders. The Regional Head indicated that the reason for transferring offenders from Estcourt Correctional Centre is that facility has been identified as a quarantine and isolation facility for offenders in the event of offenders testing positive for COVID-19. It was further indicated that the transfer of offenders from Waterval Hospital to Ncome and Glencoe was to create more space for isolation and quarantine purposes. The DCS indicated that safety of officials was taken into consideration if officials must safeguard offenders who have tested positive for COVID-19. The safeguarding is not carried out at Public hospitals but rather in the environment that is not an epicenter of COVID-19.

The PSA insisted that management should comply with COVID-19 Regulations and the *OHSA*. When offenders are transferred from one facility to another, employees and inmates must be fully equipped with personal protective equipment. The PSA will monitor these transfers through shop stewards.

The DCS management in KZN committed to involving and briefing the PSA on weekly basis regarding measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 and the availability of PPE in each centre. The PSA will continue its mission to ensure that members' rights and interests are protected. Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER