



MEDIA RELEASE **Correctional Services: PSA uncovers alleged irregular recruitment and selection processes**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) that represents more than 13 000 employees of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has been informed by its members that the DCS is now under investigation by the Office of the Public Protector on allegations of maladministration and improper conduct related to recruitment and selection.

The investigation stems from alleged irregular selection and recruitment processes associated with the filling of the vacant position of Deputy Commissioner: Intergovernmental Relations by the DCS. The information is contained in a letter from the acting Chief Investigator: Good Governance and Integrity, dated 5 August 2020. This intervention comes in the wake of a complaint lodged by an anonymous DCS employee on 12 December 2019, making serious allegations of impropriety and irregular appointment. The complaint, as per the letter from the Office of the Public Protector is informed by specific listed incidents and events that will be investigated. The DCS was given ten days to respond to the letter.

In 2018, a PSA member also applied for arbitration to challenge the irregular appointment of the current Deputy Commissioner: Intergovernmental Relations at the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council. The DCS has, however, been using delaying tactics to frustrate the dispute resolution process by repeatedly asking for postponements over the past two years.

The PSA is currently waiting for an arbitration date to continue challenging what it deems to have been an irregular appointment of the Deputy Commissioner: Intergovernmental Relations. The PSA is determined to challenge appointments of this nature until such time that the irregular recruitment and selection processes of the DCS are corrected.

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