

MEDIA RELEASE **Correctional Services deliberately spreading COVID-19 in Gauteng**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), has been made aware of the failure by the management of the Department of Correctional Service (the DCS), Hatfield Regional Branch, to adhere to COVID-19 prescripts.

The PSA received reports from staff members that the DCS in Hatfield has failed to isolate staff members who come in contact with positive cases; management has failed to effectively deep clean the premises in Hatfield after an incident; there is no contact tracing and despite the need for it there is no rotational work shifts.

The PSA members have engaged with management at DCS without resolve. The DCS has an obligation to provide a safe and conducive working environment for employees in line with COVID-19 prescripts.

The failure of management to provide a safe working environment creates a deadly risk for staff members and in light of the rising cases of infection it also adds to the possible escalation of COVID-19 figures within the Gauteng province. The PSA will be engaging with the National Commissioner for intervention. Further thereto the PSA will engage the Department of Health and Labour about the lack of compliance and the attitude of the employer which cannot be tolerated in the midst of the third wave.

It is highly disturbing to learn that Correctional Services deliberately contributes to the increase of the spread of COVID-19 in the Gauteng province while the country is still grappling with vaccination of the population.

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