MEDIA RELEASE	**COVID-19: PSA condemns DCS failure to provide officials in Mthatha with work permits**
DATE	27 March 2020
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in the Eastern Cape for not providing officials with work permits to travel between work and home during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

Correctional Centres in Mthatha are short-staffed as Correctional Officials without permit could not report for duty. PSA members informed the Union on 27 March 2020 that some of them were prevented from travelling to work by law enforcement officials as they were not able to produce the required permits. The DCS issued HR Directive 1/2020 to all Branch Heads and Regional Commissioners, providing guidelines on DCS commitment to assist Officials with the required permits.

The PSA, in communication with the Area Commissioner's Office in Mthatha, confirmed that all Correctional Centres were not issued with work permits as these could not be printed from the system because of a format problem. The Area Commissioner's Office also confirmed that the work permits will be sent to all Mthatha Heads of Centres by the end of the day for distribution to officials. The PSA will monitor the situation and enforce compliance should this become necessary.

END