

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      COVID-19: PSA demands action at Barberton Correctional Centre in Mpumalanga

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is dismayed with the unsafe environment at Barberton Correctional Centre in Mpumalanga as the Department of Correctional Services does not have taken precautions to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

It has been brought to the PSA's attention that inmates at the Centre are exposed to poor conditions and no provisioning was made for sanitisers. Inmates cannot sanitise their hands and there is also no running water to wash hands.

The PSA approached the Centre's management, who confirmed that they are aware of the situation but indicated that the issue of water is caused by a municipal challenge where water is shut off during the day until 21:00 daily. Management, however, assured the PSA that sanitizer will be delivered for inmates. They are ensuring that inmates moving out on critical span duty are sanitised daily. All offices and cells have been sanitised and inmates and employees are screened daily.

The PSA emphasized to DCS management that it has a responsibility to protect employees and inmates as far as possible against an outbreak of the virus. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation at Barberton Correctional Centre to ensure a safe environment.

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