

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**COVID-19: PSA condemns conduct of DCS in the Northern Cape**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has condemned the actions of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Commissioner to approve the transfer of an inmate from Gauteng to Upington Correctional Services in the Northern Cape without following national guidelines COVID-19 and taking the necessary precautions.

On arrival at the Upington Correctional Centre, the inmate was showing signs of infection with the virus, but no proper safety measures were taken to isolate the inmate. The PSA has called for stern action to be taken against the DCS officials whose actions have endangered the safety of employees.

The PSA, which represents some 14 000 Correctional Services employees across the country, has also called on the DCS Area Commissioner and Head of Centre in Tswelopele Correctional Centre to refrain from threatening the Union's members regarding the DCS screening process. Employees who point out clear flaws in the screening process are threatened with unpaid leave and disciplinary procedures.

The PSA has raised concerns regarding the screening process and is awaiting the Area Commissioner's response. The Union called on DCS Regional Management to ensure that DCS institutions in the Northern Cape meet the occupational health and safety requirements. The Union has also advised its members at these institutions to exercise careful and not to compromise their health by following irresponsible decisions and instructions.

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