

MEDIA RELEASE	COVID-19: PSA mourns death of Full-Time Office Bearer at DCS Western Cape
DATE	29 June 2020
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has learned with sadness of the passing of one of the Union's full-time office bearers for the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in the Western Cape, owing to COVID-19.

Mr Jeff Fransman passed away on Sunday, 28 June 2020 after falling ill on 19 June. He was admitted to hospital and immediately taken to the Intensive Care Unit on the same day. Mr Fransman served as a PSA Full-Time Office Bearer, for the West Coast Region, a position he held for more than ten years. In the last few weeks, he spearheaded the PSA's actions to intervene where challenges owing to the COVID-19 pandemic at Public Service institutions arose in the West Coast area.

It is tragic when a front-line champion such as Mr Fransman falls victim to the very virus, he fought so hard to protect his fellow workers against. The PSA trusts that officials and employers alike, will once again be reminded of the devastating and indiscriminate effect of this pandemic and renew efforts to ensure that the sacrifices of persons such as Mr Fransman were not in vain. Despite the deepening crisis and loss of life, many employers in the Public Service continue with business as usual and fail to ensure that public servants and the public they serve are protected when entering public institutions. Processes such as disciplinary hearings are continuing, exposing participants including shop stewards, to the risk of being infected.

The PSA urgently calls on Ministers and Head of Departments of all state departments, to take charge of the crisis and ensure the protection of all employees and not only that of management.

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