

MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA mourns death of shop steward at Boksburg Prison**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has learned with sadness of the passing of one of the Union's shop stewards at the Boksburg Prison, owing to COVID-19.

There are currently six confirmed cases at the Prison. In the Johannesburg Prison (*Sun City*), there are more than 40 cases of COVID- 19 infections, while Modderbee has 12 confirmed cases. A shop steward at the Johannesburg Prison is in hospital in a serious condition.

Despite this situation, the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) management at the prisons continue as if there is nothing wrong but ensure that they are protected. They lock themselves in the comfort of their offices and staff members must communicate with them through office windows and burglar bars only. There are several DCS members with comorbidities who are forced to work in the prisons and are exposed inmates who have tested positive. Processes such a disciplinary hearings are continuing, exposing participants, including shop stewards, to the risk of being infected.

The PSA urgently calls on the Gauteng DCS Provincial Commissioner to take charge of the crisis and ensure the protection of all employees and not only that of management.

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