

MEDIA RELEASE Department of Correctional Services: PSA demands immediate release of funds for Western Cape essential transport

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for an immediate budget allocation for Helderstroom Correctional Centre in the Western Cape to continue providing transport for the Union's members from outlying towns such as Caledon, Hermanus, and Villiersdorp.

The Department of Correctional Services management at Helderstroom Correctional Centre informed correctional officials employed at Helderstroom Farm Prison facilities, situated on farmland between Caledon and Villiersdorp, that the management area did not receive the full budget allocation for transport for the 2025/26-financial year. Helderstroom management submitted a request to approve overspending on the approved budget, which was severely cut early in 2025. The National Commissioner has, however, not approved the request yet, despite having ample time to devise alternative solutions to the financial crisis in the Department of Correctional Services.

This matter has the potential for serious adverse consequences. Officials rendering essential services will not be able to get to work, which amplifies the current understaffing crisis at the facility. Children of officials who are staying on the premises will not be able to get to the schools they are attending in Caledon, Villiersdorp, and Greyton.

The PSA is of the view that the National Commissioner will be responsible for any adverse consequences for officials, their families, and inmates at the facility. This crisis can be avoided, if funds are allocated timeously.

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