

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for maximum security and increased post establishment at Mthatha Correctional Centres**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) learnt with shock of a knife attack on Correctional Service officials by offenders at the Mthatha Correctional Centre in the Eastern Cape on 11 January 2022.

The attack happened when five offenders who are members of the “26 Gangsters” who smuggle knives at the prison, attacked a Correctional official whom they accused of favouring non-gangster offenders (*impathas*). Regrettably, this resulted in the death of one offender and injuries.

The PSA believes this unfortunate incident could have been avoided had the Department of Correctional Services implemented maximum security and filled vacant positions, as continuously being demanded by labour. The loss of life and assault of officials by offenders are condemned and should serve as a costly lesson to the management of the centre in ensuring that maximum security is restored.

COVID-19 deaths have left a staffing vacuum in the centre as such posts are yet to be filled. The PSA demands that Correctional Services management increases the post establishment at all Correctional Services centres to ensure security and stability. The PSA further calls on Correctional Services management to urgently fill vacancies to prevent further violence and fatal assaults in Correctional Centres.

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