

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA outraged by gruesome attack on female DCS official

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) learnt with shock about the stabbing of the female head of the Baviaanspoort Maximum Prison in Gauteng by an inmate serving a life sentence. The inmate is alleged to be a member of notorious 26s gang that regularly attacks Correctional Officials for “promotion” in the gang.

The PSA represents thousands of Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Officers and pointed out that attacks on especially female Officials are a serious challenge that cannot be left unattended any longer. Too many female DCS officials have been viciously attacked recently without any decisive action plans by the DCS to safeguard its Officials.

The PSA believes that these recurring attacks can be avoided if the DCS ensures that Correctional Centres are adequately staffed during weekends. It is a shame that the DCS continues spending millions on litigation in defending the member-inmate ratio dispute and pleads poverty when it is compelled to ensure a safe working environment for its Officials.

Despite attacks on Officials and a serious shortage of staff, the DCS allows Officials between the ages of 55 and 60 to apply for early retirement without penalisation. The PSA regards it as irresponsible and short-sighted by the DCS to even consider such options in view of current conditions in Correctional Centres.

The PSA repeated the Union’s calls on the Minister of Correctional Services to act decisively to ensure a safe working environment for DCS Officials and ensure adequate staffing in compliance with the DCS Member-Inmate Ratio Policy.

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