



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19: PSA alarmed about disregard for regulations at Colesburg Correctional Centre

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed at the double standard practiced in respect of COVID-19 cases by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Area Commissioner at Colesburg Area of the Northern Cape.

The PSA that represents more than 13 000 Correctional Services employees across the country received complaints from its members regarding the treatment of DCS officials in the Colesburg Area and the Correctional Centres in Colesburg and De Aar. A member who was in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was forced to report for duty whilst awaiting his test results, despite being a high risk.

The member complied with the instruction and subsequently tested positive. Upon learning of the positive result, other employees were concerned about their safety at a workplace that was not decontaminated. They were, however, threatened with disciplinary actions should they not report for duty. This is a clear case of an abuse of power as the Area Commissioner a few days later went underwent a COVID-19 test and did not report for duty whilst awaiting the result.

The PSA alarmed that both the Area Commissioner's Office and the Regional Office failed to respond to the Union's request for an urgent meeting. The Regional and Area Commissioners are reminded that the PSA is a recognised Union, tasked with the protection and promotions of its members' rights and interests. The conduct of the Colesburg management at Colesburg is worrisome and the abuse of power is endangering lives. The PSA calls on the Area Commissioner to consider the safety of DCS officials as these employees cannot by means of unreasonable and illegal instructions be expected to endanger their lives.

END

