

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for comprehensive reforms in South African parole system amidst reports of 3 000 parolees being rearrested for committing crimes
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disappointed about recent reports that more than 3 000 parolees were rearrested in the last year alone for committing crimes.

Such alarming statistics underscore the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the South African parole system to ensure public safety and effective rehabilitation of offenders. The granting of parole to undeserving parolees could be attributed to the desire to address the overcrowding in correctional facilities. The overcrowding rate of some 48%, exacerbates challenges faced by the correctional system. The reported prison population is about 156 000 inmates, of whom approximately 22 000 are foreign nationals. This situation has raised concerns about the strain on resources and the need for effective management and reform.

The parole system can, however, not be used as a means to address overcrowding. The PSA calls for a thorough review of current parole procedures and monitoring mechanisms to address the root causes of re-offending. Parolees must receive adequate support and supervision to reintegrate successfully into society and avoid reverting to criminal behaviour.

The PSA urges the Department of Correctional Services to implement robust measures that include enhanced rehabilitation programs, improved parolee monitoring, and increased collaboration with community organisations. These steps are essential to reduce re-offence rates and ensure that parolees contribute positively to communities. The release of unrehabilitated prisoners or providing inadequate parolee support and monitoring place citizens at risk and require urgent attention.

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