

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for heightened vigilance at correctional facilities during festive season
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls on the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to exercise heightened vigilance during the festive season to ensure safety and security across all correctional facilities during this critical period.

This time of the year often brings unique operational challenges, including increased movement and activity in correctional centres. These conditions can create opportunities for security breaches or escapes should preventative measures not be adequately reinforced.

The PSA urges the DCS to implement proactive and robust strategies to mitigate risks. These include strengthening perimeter security, intensifying surveillance and monitoring systems, and ensuring strict adherence to operational protocols at all times. The PSA remains extremely concerned about the ongoing shortage of core personnel in the DCS. Chronic understaffing places immense pressure on correctional officials who are tasked with managing demanding and high-risk environments. Overburdened employees are more vulnerable to fatigue, reduced performance, and compromised security standards.

The PSA reiterates the Union's call for the DCS to prioritise increasing staffing levels. Adequate personnel is essential for improved operational efficiency and to safeguard the wellbeing of correctional officials. This will ensure that they can perform their duties effectively and without undue strain.

The safety of South African communities is linked to the stability and integrity of the correctional system. The PSA is ready to work with the DCS to uphold security, protect employees, and maintain public confidence.

END