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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | PSA calls for urgent reform in South African parole system following Auditor-General's exposure of flaws |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 20 October 2025                                                                                          |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None                                                                                                     |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | communication@psa.co.za                                                                                  |

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned following the Auditor-General of South Africa's (AGSA) recent report, exposes critical flaws in the country's parole system.

The findings reveal systemic failures in the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), including the consideration of repeat offenders for parole, inadequate rehabilitation programmes, and non-compliance with mandatory psychological services for offenders in sexually related crimes. The AGSA's Budget Review and Recommendations Report (BRRR) highlights that remand detainees, making up 35% of the inmate population, are excluded from rehabilitation efforts, and offenders sentenced to less than 24 months lack access to Correctional Services Professionals (CSPs). These shortcomings undermine the integrity of the parole process and jeopardise public safety.

Deliberate disregard of the supply chain management processes and the *Public Finance Management Act*, which led to the irregular expenditure of R7.7 million in the 2024/25-financial year and fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R13.87 million is worrying. It is inexcusable that the DCS can award contracts based on evaluation criteria contrary to those stipulated in tender documentation. It is criminal to award contracts to non-tax compliant suppliers or those who have failed to meet Construction Industry Development Board requirements. The failure by the DCS to fill vacancies is scandalous, noting a senior management vacancy rate of 30.7% and an overall vacancy rate of 13.5%.

The PSA reiterates the Union's call for comprehensive reforms of the parole system, especially in view of reports that over 3 000 parolees were rearrested in the past year for committing new crimes. The PSA warns against using parole as a tool to address the current alarming 48% overcrowding rate in correctional facilities. The PSA recommends a thorough review of parole procedures and monitoring mechanisms, implementation of enhanced rehabilitation programmes tailored to offender profiles, and improved parolee monitoring through integrated systems and community collaboration. There is a need for mandatory psychological services for high-risk and sexual offenders. Strengthened oversight and accountability in the DCS should be a priority to prevent irregular expenditure and ensure ethical conduct supported by consequence management. The delay of incorporating the DCS into an integrated justice system must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The PSA urges the DCS and the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services to act decisively in implementing these reforms. The safety of South Africans and the credibility of the criminal justice system depend on a parole system that is just, transparent, and rehabilitative.

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