



MEDIA RELEASE PSA concerned about members' safety at Mpumalanga Correctional Services

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned about the safety of the Union's members employed by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), particularly in Mpumalanga, following two recent alarming incidents.

On 5 March 2024, a PSA shop steward at Lydenburg Correctional Centre fell victim to a vicious attack by an offender who stabbed him with a self-made weapon crafted from glass, inflicting injuries to his face and body. The official required immediate transfer to a hospital in Nelspruit, where he underwent facial surgery by a plastic surgeon.

The PSA notes with disappointment that there was no official announcement in the Barberton DCS Area regarding the incident at Lydenburg Correctional Centre. It is disconcerting for the PSA when management opts to withhold critical information from DCS employees.

In another tragic incident on 10 March 2024, two offenders assaulted another inmate at Witbank Correctional Centre, resulting in the latter's death owing to the severity of the injuries. Emergency task teams from various centres were deployed to the Centre to assist in stabilising the situation.

The employer has the responsibility of ensuring a safe and healthy workplace and DCS is currently falling short of this obligation. The PSA urgently requests DCS management to thoroughly review the recruitment process. It is an undeniable reality that all correctional centres in Mpumalanga are understaffed, contributing significantly to an unsafe working environment for DCS employees.

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