

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned regarding road safety for Department of Correctional Services officials in the Eastern Cape
DATE	30 May 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Official, who tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident while on duty in the Eastern Cape. The PSA also extends its support and wishes a full recovery to the second official who was seriously injured in the same incident.

According to reports, the two officials were returning to Sterkspruit from St Albans after transporting offenders to Gqeberha on 26 May 2025. Tragically, in the late afternoon near Graaff-Reinet, their vehicle was involved in a serious accident, resulting in the death of one official at the scene and critical injuries to the other. This tragic event highlights the ongoing concern raised by the PSA regarding the unsafe working conditions faced by DCS officials. It is a common practice for officials to drive long distances and return the same day without any provision for rest or overnight accommodation. In this instance, no arrangements were made for the officials to rest before embarking on a return trip of over 400 kilometres, contributing to fatigue and potential vehicle safety risks.

The PSA calls on the DCS to urgently review and address these dangerous practices. The department must ensure that proper accommodation arrangements are made for officials required to travel long distances, that road safety regulations are strictly adhered to, and that vehicle conditions are regularly monitored to ensure they are fit for long-distance travel. The PSA believes that no life should be lost owing to avoidable circumstances and urges the department to prioritise the safety and well-being of its employees.

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