

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA condemns brutal attack on Correctional Officer at Waterval Medium A: Calls for strict measures
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the brutal attack on a female Correctional Officer at Waterval Medium A Correctional Centre in KwaZulu-Natal on 29 August 2026.

According to reports, the Officer was allegedly stabbed multiple times with an improvised weapon. The incident occurred around 13:30 in the Unit B courtyard whilst offenders were being served meals. The Officer sustained serious head and back injuries and was admitted to Newcastle Mediclinic for urgent medical treatment. The PSA has been informed that an attempted murder case was opened at Utrecht South African Police Service on 30 August 2026 and that the suspect has been identified.

The PSA extends the Union's support to the Officer, her family, and colleagues. This horrific attack again highlights the dangerous conditions under which Correctional Officers are required to perform their duties. The PSA is extremely concerned that chronic overcrowding, persistent staff shortages, unresolved shift-system challenges, increasing workloads, and inadequate security measures continue to expose officials to unacceptable levels of risk. These factors directly affect the Department of Correctional Services' ability to maintain a safe and secure correctional environment for officials and inmates.

The PSA calls on the Department to urgently conduct a full investigation into how the improvised weapon was obtained or manufactured in the facility. It must be determined whether appropriate searches and security procedures were implemented. A review of staffing levels and deployment arrangements in Unit B at the time of the incident must be done. Funded vacancies must be filled coupled with accelerated frontline recruitment. The Department should further strengthen security intelligence, searches, and access-control measures. Correctional Officers should be provided with adequate protective equipment. In addition, comprehensive medical, psychological, and occupational support should be provided to the injured Officer and her colleagues.

The PSA further calls for swift criminal and disciplinary action against the offender should responsibility for the attack be established. No employee should fear for their life whilst performing official duties. The safety and wellbeing of Correctional Officers must be a priority as provided in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

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