

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PSA outraged by member death at WC Correctional Services**

**DATE**

15 May 2020

**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public servants, has learned with great sadness, of the passing of a second Department of Correctional Services official, in the Western Cape, owing to a COVID-19 infection and complications. The official was one of 27 officials, of the Warmbokkeveld Correctional Centre, who tested positive during April 2020. He was admitted to Medi Clinic Worcester on 18 April 2020 and was on a ventilator and dialysis with major complications. He bravely fought for his life, but unfortunately lost the battle on 13 May 2020 evening at the Worcester Medi-Clinic.

The PSA extends its sincere condolences to the family and colleagues of the deceased employee. A life lost in the line of duty is always one too many, and employers are urged to take all possible precautionary measures to protect employees from becoming statistics of the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSA calls on Minister Ronald Lamola and the National Commissioner Mr Arthur Fraser to ensure that the lives of employees tasked with protecting offenders are not placed at risk by providing the necessary personal protective equipment. The PSA also calls on the Minister to implement preventative measures that was tabled by the PSA to minimise the spread of the virus within the Correctional Services environment without any further delay.

The PSA has noted with concern the increase in the number of infections, amongst public servants, who tirelessly rendered essential services over the past six weeks of lockdown.

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