

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA urges Department of Correctional Services to stop new shift arrangements at Westville Correctional Centre**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about actions by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Regional Commissioner to unilaterally impose a new twelve-day on, two-days off shift system at Westville Maximum Medium B Correctional Centre, from 5 June 2023.

The Regional Commissioner's failure to pay employees at the Correctional Centre who participated in this pilot shift pattern is also most disappointing. In terms of General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council rules and according to a court interdict granted previously against the DCS, no Regional Commissioner is empowered to introduce a new shift pattern prior to the proposed system being tabled for discussion at the departmental chamber. On 14 February 2011, the Labour Court issued a court interdict (case number J208/11) against the Minister of Correctional Services as first respondent and the National Commissioner as second respondent, effectively preventing the DCS from implementing a new shift pattern at centre-based management facilities without consultation and resolution at the departmental chamber.

The PSA is therefore surprised that the same Regional Commissioner is again unilaterally implementing a similar shift system. The PSA has expressed its dissatisfaction with the Regional Commissioner about the implementation of the new shift system and has requested that no shift changes be made unless such a system has been duly consulted with labour.

These efforts yielded no results, and the PSA thus calls on the National Commissioner to intervene as a matter of urgency to stop this new 12-day shift system and to ensure that employees are paid all their outstanding overtime claims within seven days.

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