

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes legislative efforts to repatriate foreign prisoners amidst corrective system strain
DATE	29 September 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of employees at the Department of Correctional Services, welcomes the South African government's initiative to introduce legislation enabling the repatriation of foreign nationals serving prison sentences in the country.

This move comes in response to the growing financial and logistical burden placed on South Africa's correctional system, which currently houses over 24 000 foreign inmates at a daily cost exceeding R11 million, that is not sustainable. The PSA acknowledges the urgent need to address overcrowding and resource constraints in correctional facilities, which directly impact the working conditions and safety of correctional officers and other employees.

The PSA has long advocated for sustainable solutions that balance justice, human rights, and operational efficiency. Whilst the PSA supports the principle of repatriation, it urges government to ensure that bilateral agreements with foreign governments are robust and enforceable. Human rights standards should be upheld during the transfer and detention processes. The Department must ensure that public servants involved in the implementation are adequately trained and resourced.

The PSA further calls on the Department of Home Affairs and the Justice, Crime Prevention, and Security Cluster to expedite consultations and legislative amendments, particularly to the *Criminal Procedure Act*, to enable the lawful and humane transfer of sentenced foreign offenders. As a stakeholder in the correctional services sector, the PSA is committed to engaging with government and Parliament to ensure that the interests of public servants and the broader public are protected throughout this process.

END