

MEDIA RELEASE **St Albans Correctional Centre: PSA demands urgent intervention to address crisis**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the numerous stabbings of Department of Correctional Services (DCS) officials by inmates at the St Albans Correctional Centre in the Eastern Cape.

In the latest incident, a DCS official was stabbed at the St Albans Medium B centre on 13 August 2019. This was the second incident in a short space of time at the Centre.

The PSA indicated that despite the deployment of the National Emergency Task Team at the Centre for the second time, the situation has not changed to ensure a safe working environment for DCS employees. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on the DCS also the Centre but there is still no clear indication of when the situation will be improved.

The PSA that represents thousands of DCS employees is of the view that DCS is failing in its duty to ensure a safe working environment for its employees – a state of affairs that the Union regards in a very serious light. The PSA pointed out that currently 67 employees stationed at the Centre are booked off owing to injury on duty as a result of stabbings and assaults on them by inmates. This dire situation puts immense pressure on the remaining employees and substantially increases the risk of more incidents owing to the unstable situation.

The PSA demands that DCS in the Eastern Cape urgently tables a long-term, solution-driven strategy to address the situation at St Albans Correctional Centre that is regarded as nothing short of a crisis.

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