



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE - DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DCS)**

09-01-2026

Department of Correctional Services (DCS): Ongoing electricity crisis at St. Albans prison premises

The PSA met with DCS management at St. Albans on 7 January 2026 to address the ongoing electricity supply challenges, funding constraints, and the serious impact on staff welfare and working conditions.

Background

Electricity supply disruptions have been ongoing since 17 November 2025, following an alleged vandalism incident affecting the main electricity infrastructure. Areas severely impacted include:

- Living quarters on the West Side of the St. Albans premises
- Management offices, including the Area Commissioner's office

As a temporary measure to provide electricity, the employer is using a generator. Power outages have been unpredictable, often occurring when the employer runs out of diesel needed to operate the generator, resulting in electricity repeatedly switching on and off and causing confusion, operational disruptions, and significant hardship for affected staff.

Impact on PSA members

PSA members residing in staff accommodation are unable to access basic services, including washing facilities. Office-based staff have experienced severe productivity challenges, with some officials forced to work from other centres. Service delivery and daily operations have been significantly compromised.

Management engagement and funding challenges

Management acknowledged the seriousness of the situation. Multiple memoranda requesting approval and funding for repairs and diesel for generators were submitted to DCS National Head Office from as early as 17 November 2025, without success. There is a critical lack of funding to repair the damaged electricity box and sustain generator usage due to the non-procurement of diesel.

Investigations and security concerns

Management suspects the incident may have been malicious, and a person of interest has been identified. The matter has been referred to SAPS for investigation.

Interim measures and a way forward

Efforts are underway to secure funding for diesel and additional generators from nearby correctional centres, including Kirkwood and North-End. Temporary measures for staff welfare staying in official accommodation in the affected area, including external laundry options, were discussed and are under consideration. Management expressed hope that approval of funding and repairs from DCS National Office could be achieved soon, as a matter of urgency.

PSA's position and commitments

The PSA has emphasised the urgent need for clear communication, regular updates, and decisive intervention from DCS Management. Staff health, safety, morale, and working conditions remain a priority for continued support. The PSA will continue engaging St. Albans management until the matter is resolved.

The PSA remains committed to protecting the interests and well-being of its members and will keep members informed of all developments.

Reuben Maleka

GENERAL MANAGER