



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA (STATS SA) – FREE STATE**

26-10-2026

PSA acts to strengthen safety of Stats SA Field Workers

The PSA has formally engaged Stats SA management following the recent incident involving a Field Worker in Viljoenskroon whilst performing official duties. This incident has raised serious concerns about the safety of employees who regularly conduct fieldwork throughout the Free State. The PSA also highlighted that a similar incident reportedly occurred on the N1 in August 2025, reinforcing the need for stronger safety measures to protect employees in the field.

In its correspondence to Provincial Manager, Ms Boniswa, the PSA requested urgent implementation of additional safety interventions, including the provision of emergency panic devices such as key-holder panic buttons or wearable devices similar to the *Guardian Angel* system. These devices would allow employees to immediately summon assistance in emergency situations.

The PSA further requested management to:

- Provide counselling and trauma debriefing services to affected employees.
- Communicate the Department's plan and interventions following the Viljoenskroon incident.
- Review and strengthen existing safety protocols for field workers.
- Consider self-defence and personal safety training for employees who work in potentially high-risk environments.

The PSA believes that no employee should be placed at risk whilst carrying out official duties and that employee safety must remain a top priority for the Department. The PSA will continue to engage management to ensure that practical measures are implemented to protect members and will keep employees informed of developments. **Members' safety is the PSA's priority.**

Employees that would like to join PSA can contact Lynsie Pelser on 082 883 7237. Members are welcome to send input to Lynsie at lynsie.pelser@psa.co.za.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL SECRETARY