

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about growing number of social media posts depicting assault of Correctional officials**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 14 000 employees of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), is extremely concerned about recent social media posts on various platforms depicting the assault of Correctional officials by offenders.

These disturbing posts also reflect how offenders have access to weapons. It is deeply distressing that these scenes were filmed with individuals wearing the Department's official uniform for both officials and offenders. Such posts undermine the work of Correctional officials and perpetuate violence against them.

The PSA strongly condemns these posts and trusts that the relevant authorities will track the individuals responsible and ensure that they account for their actions. The use of DCS uniforms in this regard constitutes an offence in terms of the *Correctional Services Act* that is deserving of suitable sentences.

Violent acts related to Correctional officials, as circulated on social media, have the potential to promote criminal acts on this nature in communities. The country is already overwhelmed by violent crimes that occur daily with innocent lives being lost. Government should deploy the necessary resources to ensure the perpetrators are swiftly apprehended and held accountable.

END

