

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns brutal killing of Correctional Official at the Leeukop Correctional Centre**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 13 000 employees of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), condemns the brutal killing of a 50-year-old female Correctional Official at the Leeukop Correctional Centre. It is currently unclear who is responsible for the killing and the PSA has been informed that the Department will investigate the matter. The official, who had served the Department for 23 years, was stationed at the Covid-19 Isolation Centre.

The PSA is extremely concerned regarding the security of Correctional Officials, specifically female employees at correctional centres. Violence breaks out every now and then and the lives of officials are especially at risk. The security threat to employees is highlighted daily to the management of correctional centres, as well as the senior management of Correctional Services, yet it appears that Senior Managers are still unable to place any valid measures in place to protect employees against such senseless acts of violence. The PSA believes the shortage of staff in correctional centres plays a role in such acts of violence against correctional officials. The matter of staff shortages has been raised with the employer with calls on the courts to intervene, with no success. Violent acts are expected to continue if matters such as staff shortages are not addressed in correctional centres.

The PSA extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased and urges Correctional Services to speed up the investigation, while ensuring that enough officials are employed to reinforce security to protect employees.

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