MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA disappointed with Department of Correctional Services following violent attack on employee**
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EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely disappointed with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Regional Commissioner for Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and North West for the handling of a violent attack on an employee at Lydenburg Correctional Centre.

In March 2024, the employee who is also a PSA member and shop steward was violently attacked by an offender, suffering severe injuries inflicted by a self-made glass weapon. The victim required urgent facial surgery at a hospital in Nelspruit.

Whilst the Regional Commissioner did send a representative to address the incident and trauma counselling was provided to Lydenburg Correctional Centre employees, the assaulted member has not received sufficient ongoing support or assistance from the DCS. Despite a single visit from the employee-wellness representative, no further follow-up has occurred. Additionally, the DCS has failed to initiate a proper investigation and no affidavit or statement has been taken from the victim to date.

The incident is recognised as an injury on duty and requires thorough investigation. Allegations have surfaced that staff negligence may have contributed to the severity of the incident, as the victim was reportedly left alone with the offender and only received assistance from a female inmate. The victim remains unable to work owing to medical complications and is currently hospitalised for further reconstructive surgery.

The PSA urges the DCS to conduct a comprehensive investigation, preferably by an external investigator from outside the province, to ensure impartiality. It is crucial to interview all relevant witnesses and address the various allegations to uncover the truth. The PSA is closely monitoring the situation and expects prompt action by the DCS.

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