

MEDIA RELEASE **Sheriff attaches assets from Department of Correctional Services for failure to implement arbitration award**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) was forced to revert to the Sheriff to execute a *writ of execution* after the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) failed without any valid reason to implement an arbitration award issued by the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council.

The DCS treated PSA members unfairly after they worked compulsory overtime during the COVID-19 period by failing to pay them overtime. The PSA took the matter on arbitration and won the case for all 18 of the Union’s members at the Johannesburg Prison. The DCS initially indicated that it would take the matter on review, but no court papers were served on the PSA or its members. This again forced the PSA to request the Sheriff to execute.

The Sherrif subsequently executed the *writ of execution* and attached 50 computers and 40 printers from the DCS Head Office in Pretoria to be sold on auction. The DCS was granted 30 days after the attachment within which to pay the affected members but failed to do so. As a result of this failure to pay members what was due to them, the PSA requested the Sherrif to sell the items at an auction and pay the affected members.

The PSA has noted with concern a trend over the last couple of years, where various government departments simply ignore arbitration awards, showing total disrespect for legal processes such as a *writ of execution*. The PSA will continue to enforce these awards to the fullest extent of the law and will not tolerate the arrogance shown by employers in this regard.

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