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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DCS) - NORTHERN CAPE**

06-11-2024

Ill-treatment of female Department of Correctional Services officials at Douglas Correctional Centre (Kimberley Management Area)

The PSA is extremely concerned about the ill-treatment that female DCS officials at Douglas Correctional Centre were subjected to on 17 October 2024. The PSA does not raise issues with personnel searching procedures, but the way in which it was conducted. The officials were subjected to a strip-search where they had to remove some of their clothing and in a degrading manner. The room where the search was conducted was not conducive to this action as it has a see-through window to the outside.

The PSA requested a meeting with DCS management to address this issue amicably after members complained. Inexplicably, the way the Head of Centre and the Area Commissioner turned down the PSA's meeting request left a lot to be desired. They further prevented PSA representatives from entering the premises to consult with affected members. The PSA had to make alternative arrangements to consult with members. The PSA advised members to follow the grievance procedure, as there was a degree of harassment and bullying during the search.

The PSA urges the Regional Commissioner for Free State/Northern Cape to clamp on these atrocious acts against officials at workplaces.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER