



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

27 February 2025

Amendments to the 12-day Cycle Meal Plan Guarantees Adequate Nutrition for Inmates

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) remains on course with the implementation of the amendments to the 12-day cycle meal plan to enhance the nutritional value provided to all inmates.

These changes were carefully designed to align with dietary guidelines and ensure that the diverse dietary needs of the inmate population are adequately met. It includes a balanced mix of proteins, carbohydrates, fruits, and vegetables to support physical health and contribute to a positive rehabilitation environment.

DCS remains committed to maintaining a balanced and nutritious meal plan that supports the well-being of those in our care. The revised plan has been developed in consultation with nutrition experts to ensure compliance with health standards while maintaining operational efficiency.

The department firmly rejects any false reports suggesting food shortages or the unavailability of essential meal items. These claims are misleading and do not reflect the reality within our correctional facilities. We continue to uphold our mandate of providing humane and dignified care to all inmates, whilst ensuring that their dietary needs are met.

The amendments to the 12-day cycle meal plan are expected to generate savings of over R200 million per annum. These savings will be redirected towards self-sufficiency and sustainability projects, enabling inmates to continue producing their own food, manufacturing furniture and uniforms, and engaging in other trades.

While change can often be met with resistance, DCS remains steadfast in its efforts to implement improvements that benefit the overall inmate population. We urge all stakeholders to engage constructively and support initiatives aimed at enhancing correctional services.

ENDS

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