



**MINISTRY
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

8 September 2026

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES SUSPENDS FOUR SENIOR OFFICIALS

The Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Pieter Groenewald, has announced the suspension of four senior officials within the Department, including the Chief Financial Officer, pending the outcome of an investigation into allegations of fraud related to a coal supply tender.

A criminal case has been officially registered with the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks) under CAS 799/7/2026, following the serious allegations of fraud. The matter is currently under investigation.

A forensic investigation will also be conducted to establish the full extent of any irregularities so that those responsible can be prosecuted.

At the time of his appointment as Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Groenewald said combating corruption and fraud, and ensuring consequences for officials who transgress would be his top priority.

The Minister welcomes the breakthrough in this matter and gives the assurance that his Department will co-operate fully to ensure that those who are guilty are held to account.

ENDS.

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