



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

7 September 2026

DCS launches manhunt for escapee from Rooigrond Maximum Correctional Centre

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has launched a manhunt for an offender who escaped from Rooigrond Maximum Correctional Centre, near Mahikeng in the North West Province, on 6 September 2026.

The escapee, Edward Khomotso Madiba, was being detained in the single cells on a further charge relating to a previous escape when he managed to break out of the correctional centre. Offender Madiba is serving a 20-year sentence for robbery with aggravating circumstances, possession of a firearm and ammunition, kidnapping, and parole violation.

Preliminary information indicates that offender Madiba cut through the burglar-bar door of the single cells. DCS has activated its security detail and is working with other law enforcement agencies to locate and apprehend the escapee as a matter of urgency. All necessary measures are being implemented to ensure that offender Madiba is traced and brought back into custody.

A total of eight (8) officials have been served with notices of contemplation of suspension pending the outcome of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the escape.

The Department is appealing to members of the public to immediately alert law enforcement should they have any information that could assist in establishing the whereabouts of offender Madiba.

Correctional Services has also instituted a full-scale investigation into the circumstances surrounding the escape, including the security measures at the facility. This is to establish how the escape occurred and to determine whether any negligence or breach of security contributed to the incident.

ENDS

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Offender Edward Khomotso Madiba