



JICS

Judicial Inspectorate for
Correctional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

4 May 2018

Pollsmoor Correctional Centre still in violation of the Overcrowding Court Order of 2016.

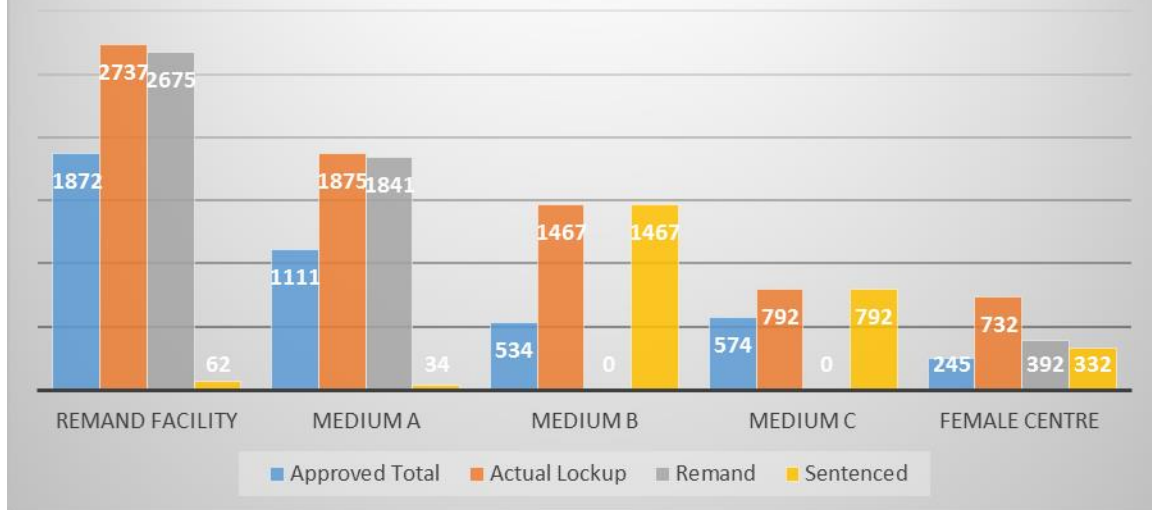
The latest lock up figures for the Pollsmoor Correctional Centre for remand detainees is still in clear violation of the 2016 Court order.

In the Saldanha court judgement the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), in particular the Head of Centre of the Pollsmoor Remand Detention Facility was ordered “to develop a comprehensive plan, including timeframes for its implementation, which addresses and will put an end to: the deficiencies in the provision of exercise, nutrition, accommodation, ablution facilities and healthcare services to the inmates of Pollsmoor Remand Detention Facility (RDF); and the deficiencies identified in the Prison Visit Reports by Justice Cameron, dated 27 July 2015, and 13 August 2015, (the Cameron Report)...”

This meant that the number of persons detained at the Pollsmoor RDF should be reduced to not more than 120% of the current approved accommodation number.

The current lock up figures as recorded by DCS on 1 May 2018 can be seen below. Of which 461 are incarcerated for bail less than R1000.

Pollsmoor Correctional Centre Lockup Figures 1 May 2018



These figures indicate that the remand population is spread out at the various centres across Pollsmoor. What is most alarming, and has not been taken cognisance of, is the large amount of females (732) incarcerated which includes 8 infants. The majority of cases that have been reported and published in the media have mostly focused on the male population, but in this instance the totals of the female centre is almost 200% over capacity.

There are only two other female centres in the Western Cape, Worcester (which is at 90% capacity) and Oudtshoorn which is 28% overcrowded, but due to the fact that it is more than 400 km from Cape Town, this makes family contact almost impossible, especially for people in the poorer communities.

As the world is making arrangements to celebrate Mother's Day on the 13th May, we wish to highlight women and mothers in incarceration during the month of May. Many of these women are awaiting trial prisoners who have lengthy stays in prison and several of these cases are often thrown out of court or postponed indefinitely.

The Inspecting Judge, Justice Johann van der Westhuizen says: "the legal mandate of JICS is to guard over the human dignity of inmates, which is inextricably linked to the dignity of all in our country. Whereas overcrowding is a huge general problem in South African correctional centres, the situation of women and infants – especially in Pollsmoor – is unacceptable, sad, and indeed inhumane."