
MEDIA STATEMENT NO 02/22

TO ALL MEDIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29/09/22

The Authority strongly condemns the reckless violence inflicted on an alleged shoplifter, Mr. Sandile Ngcobo by security officers in KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg on 9 September 2022. It is apparent that security officers that were on duty beat up a man that was allegedly caught stealing tubs of peanut butter at one of the retail stores in SA. There is a video clip that has been making the rounds on social media of this heinous act by these security officers.

These brutal acts are condemned with the strongest contempt they deserve. As the regulating body for the private security industry, we have launched an investigation and are watchfully looking into this act, the security officers involved, as well as the company they work for further investigation. The company that employs the security officers that were involved in this incident has since requested the security officers not to report for duty, pending an official suspension as the investigation has started. PSiRA strongly warns against inflicting violence unto the citizens of the country as we are meant to protect the nation and not cause harm unto them.

The Director, Mr Manabela Chauke said that "Under Chapter 2, of the Code of Conduct for Security Service Providers, 2003 (8) it states that a security service provider may only use force when the use of force as well as the nature and extent thereof is reasonably necessary in the circumstances and is permitted in terms of law. In this instance, the alleged shoplifter was not using force towards the officers thus their reaction is not justifiable. Security officers are in the industry to serve the society by protecting them and not to harm them. By beating up a fellow human being for whatever reason is not in their scope of work and I strongly caution security officers against that. In such an instance, the officers could've followed the

correct procedures by apprehending the alleged culprit and await the police to further investigate the matter”.

For more information, enquiries and interviews, please liaise with Ms. Mpho Sechoaro on 012 003 0483 or email Mpho.SECHOARO@psira.co.za .

Issued by Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority’s Communication Unit