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MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH AS PSiRA RATTLES THE NESTS OF UNSCRUPULOUS PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND MAKE HISTORIC ARRESTS, IN LESS THAN A WEEK

Centurion, 28 April 2020- In what may have been perceived to be a quiet week in the calendar of the Coronavirus lockdown, it was a crescendo in the law enforcement circles as the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSiRA) heightened its statutory mandate by conducting major operations that resulted in no less than 171 individuals arrested, including 8 Directors/Owners of private security companies and confiscated firearms.

Led by its CEO, Manabela Sam Chauke, a former top forensic Private Investigator himself, the nationwide operation which took place between 21 April to 24 April 2020, involved all PSiRA's Inspectors who were recalled from their lockdown isolation to come and intensify the Authority's raid against suspected rot in the industry.

The statutory mandate of PSiRA

To regulate the private security industry and to exercise effective control over the practice of the occupation of security service provider in the public and national interest and the interest of the private security industry itself, and for that purpose, subject to this Act, to-

(a) promote a legitimate private security industry which acts in terms of the principles contained in the Constitution and other applicable law. The provisions of PSiR Act 56 of 2001 also prescribe that, 'An Inspector may, subject to any direction of the Director, carry out an inspection of the affairs or any part of the affairs of a security service provider, of any other person who employs a security officer, or of a person whom' (Section 33 (1)).

The operation was dubbed *Operation Covid-19 Clean-Up* by the Executive Head of Law Enforcement, Adv Linda Mbona, who rallied her ground forces to inspect the private security service providers without fear or favour. The well-orchestrated operations resulted in 171 arrests, confiscation of 9 unlawful firearms and 184 criminal cases opened, all in less than a week.

“Our attitude is zero tolerance against misconduct and to fiercely protect an industry so often bedevilled by rogue elements masquerading as Security Officers. Therefore, we are duty-bound to regularly conduct these kinds of operations in order to preserve the integrity of the industry but moreover, protect the gains of Freedom sacrificed for by our forerunners”, contended PSiRA CEO, Sam Chauke.

These successful operations took place in Gauteng; North West; KwaZulu-Natal; Eastern Cape and the Western Cape Provinces respectively.

	Gauteng/Inland	KZN	EC	WC	Total
Criminal cases opened	146	22	4	12	184
Individual arrests	127	22	2	12	163
Arrested Directors/Owners	4	0	0	4	8
Firearms confiscated by SAPS	7	0	1	1	9
Code of Conduct enquiries	81	39	6	27	153
Code of Conduct investigations	40	6	0	2	48
Security Officers’ inspections	1 020	273	40	415	1 748
Unregistered Officers found	127	36	1	9	173
Untrained Officers found	113	34	2	10	159
Security Officers not linked to businesses on PSiRA database	317	86	7	49	459
Security Officers without PSiRA ID card and/or expired ID card	549	84	20	89	742
Officers not in possession of Covid-19 permits (essential services)	114	19	3	23	159

ENDS

Issued by Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority’s Communication Unit

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