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**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**29 ARRESTED IN A PSiRA MULTI-SHAREHOLDER OPERATION IN WITBANK AREA**

On 13 & 14 July 2017, a team made up of PSiRA staff, Immigration officials from the Department of Home Affairs and the South African Police conducted a joint operation in the Emalahleni (Witbank) Area, to deal with deployment of unregistered security officers, many of whom were believed to be foreign nationals.

The sites that were visited on the days of the operation were the Pick 'n Pay shopping complex, OK shopping centre and Retail shopping centre as well as some residential areas in Emalahleni. During the operation, four companies were found to be operating in these centres. Out of the 4 companies, one company, Phoenix Protection Services was non-compliant as it was not registered to render services as a security service provider and its employees were also not registered nor trained.

SAPS criminally charged and arrested the business owner and security officers for operating illegally without being properly registered with the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority to render private security services. All 29 unregistered security officers were foreign nationals (DRC: 12, Zimbabwe: 14; Mozambique: 03).

Only three reaction officers were inspected during the operation and they were all found to be registered and trained, and they had their firearm competency certificates and permits in their possession.

Manabela Chauke, Director of PSiRA urged all consumers to ensure that the businesses rendering private security services are legitimate. He continued to say "As the Authority, we are committed to clamp down on all non-complying private security service providers; but we are also relying on the consumers of such services to partner with us in ensuring that they only contract service providers with PSiRA certificates and who are in good standing with the Authority.

To check whether or not a business or security officer in your area is duly registered, you can visit our website on [www.psiira.co.za](http://www.psiira.co.za). Click on the online services and by entering the PSiRA number or the ID number of the individual you can verify their registration status. Alternatively, if you do not have internet you can contact our customer desk on 086 133 3850 for assistance.

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Issued by the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority

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The Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority was established in 2002 in terms of section 2 of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act (56 of 2001)(PSiRA). The strategic mandate of PSiRA originates from this Act and regulations issued in terms of the Act.

PSiRA's primary object is 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, as well as the interest of the private security industry itself.

**18 July 2017** |