



Private Security Industry
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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Dear Editor/Producer

PSiRA INTENSIFY ITS INVESTIGATION TO THE ALLEGED MISCONDUCT BY THE RED ANTS SECURITY RELOCATION AND EVICTION SERVICES

28 November 2017 – Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSiRA) has been inundated with complaints regarding the conduct of the Red Ants Security Relocation and Eviction Services (Pty) Ltd. The complaints originate from various places, including Ivory Park, Tembisa, Midvaal, and Lenasia. The Authority has further intensified its investigations to these allegations in light of the recent incident that transpired **today Tuesday 28th November 2017 at Vosloorus, East of Johannesburg**. We have also received a complaint from a Non-Profit Organisation, Right-to-Know about the alleged ongoing misconduct of the Red Ants Security Relocation and Eviction Services.

"The Authority condemns the alleged misconduct and we want to inform the public that we have launched an investigation on these matters and we will be further seeking legal advice on best approach to address the outcome of our investigation. As the industry regulator, we have statutory mandate to effectively control the practice of the occupation of the security service provider in the public and national interest. We will therefore not allow any Code of Conduct violation that compromises public safety and the integrity of the private security industry at large", said the Director of PSiRA, Manabela Chauke.

At this stage we are requesting anyone who is currently in position of evidence or information that will assist with the investigation (this include members of the media), to bring it to our attention in order for us to act on it accordingly. All criminal cases opened which relate to the Red Ants Security Relocation and Eviction incidents are being investigated by the Law Enforcement Agencies, whereas the Authority is investigating the conduct of the company in terms of the Code of Conduct for the security service providers. Mr Chauke further emphasised that *"the Authority is currently working with Law Enforcement agencies to ensure that any*

misconduct or violation of human rights in this regard by the alleged perpetrators/ security service provider are accounted for”.

As the Regulator, our investigations into these complaints is to establish the facts and align them with the provisions of the PSIR Act, the Regulations and The Code of Conduct for Security Service Providers and for brevity sake to enquire,

- Whether security officers employed by the Red Ants had the requisite legal power, status, licence, permit, authorisation, accreditation, registration, level of training, skill, knowledge or qualification relevant for the services they were rendering (Evictions and Demolitions)
- Whether security officers employed by the Red Ants were in lawful possession and use of firearms and ammunition and have been successfully trained as required by law in the possession and use of such firearms and ammunition and are able to use it lawfully, safely and correctly in the relevant circumstances.
- Whether the Red Ants took reasonable steps to ensure that security officers in their employ who are used or made available to render a security service to any person -
 - (a) were properly informed about the nature and scope of his or her functions and duties as well as his or her legal powers in this regard;
 - (b) were properly managed, controlled and supervised;
 - (c) were lawfully provided with and are in lawful possession of all the equipment necessary to render the security service in question;
 - (d) were lawfully provided with and are in lawful possession of any fire- arm, ammunition and any weapon necessary to render the security service in question; and
 - (e) properly disciplined in the case of a transgression of the disciplinary code.

In the main, the Authority wishes to satisfy itself that the Red Ants has in place systems and practices of management, control, supervision and administration that are reasonably necessary in view of nature and size of the security business, the number of security officers used or made available and the nature and scope of the security services rendered, to ensure

- a) Effective control over the rendering of security services by the security business;
- b) Lawful, trustworthy, disciplined and competent conduct by security officers used or made available by the security business; and
- c) Compliance with the obligations of the security business in terms of the Act, the Levies Act and this Code.

According to the Private Security Industry Regulation Act 56 of 2001, every private security company should comply with the provision of the Code of Conduct. If found guilty of improper conduct the following could be imposed:

- A warning or a reprimand;
- Suspension of registration as security provider for a period not exceeding 6 months;
- Withdrawal of registration as a security service provider;
- A fine up to a million rand per count, which is payable to the Authority;
- Publication of appropriate details of the conviction of improper conduct and any penalty imposed; or
- Any combination of the above.

Lastly, we wish to call upon every security service provider to endeavour to prevent crime, effectively protect persons and property and refrain from conducting himself or herself in a manner, which may unlawfully endanger the safety or security of any person or property.

Every security service provider must, when performing functions in a public place, do so with due regard to the safety, security and other rights of the members of the public who are present in such a place.

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The Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSiRA) was established in terms of Section 2 of Act 56 of 2001 to effectively regulate the private security industry and to exercise effective control over the practice of the occupation of security service providers in the public and national interest and in the interest of the private security industry itself. |