



MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

For Immediate Release

PSiRA ACTS DECISIVELY AGAINST SNIPER PROTECTION

Centurion, 23 January 2020- In December 2019, the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSiRA) received a complaint from a member of the public regarding allegations of blatant misconduct ranging from deployment of unregistered, untrained and under-age Security Officers deployed by the implicated security business. The alleged perpetrator, Mr Walter Stander is the Director of Sensible Source Investments t/a Sniper Protection, based in Bethal, Mpumalanga Province. Moreover, one of the complainant shared the video footage which has since gone viral. Procedurally, we immediately instituted a preliminary investigation and obtained two affidavits from witnesses and/or victims.

At the time, our Investigator also visited the two sites in Bethal where the alleged incidents are reported to have occurred. Whilst on site, PSiRA's Investigator called SAPS' Designated Firearms Officer to verify the kind of firearms which are seemingly used by the said security service provider. It was established that the weapons were actually gas pistols and the client was notified that the security service provider was actually not using real firearms to protect his business.

This week the Authority-

- obtained a statement from a 3rd victim
- Conducted an inspection was conducted at the premises of the business;
- Received proof that one of the victims opened a criminal case against the perpetrator for assault;
- Earlier this morning, the Authority has served letters of intention to suspend the registration of both the business and the Director of the security company in his personal capacity.

Furthermore, whilst our investigation is ongoing, the Authority will also establish the following important aspects associated with this case:

- The unlawful hiding of faces and/or wearing of masks/balaclavas by Security Officers; which is often used for authorised covert operations;
- Whether the kind of training these Security Officers has been accredited by PSiRA;
- Besides the Industry's Code of Conduct, establish whether the security service provider has complied or otherwise, with other relevant legislations prohibiting child labour.

The Code of Conduct for Security Service Providers, 2003, prescribes amongst others the following:

- A security service provider may not perform any act which is calculated to bring the Authority into contempt or disrepute.
- A security service provider may not act in any manner that threatens or poses an unreasonable risk to the public order or safety.

"Our primary objective is to regulate the industry in the public's interest, national's and in the interest of the industry itself. Therefore, on face value, this particular case and other similar ones that we are investigating, smack of apparent gross violation of human rights, an indictment no civil society should tolerate", bemoaned PSiRA's CEO, Manabela Chauke.

ENDS

For more information, enquiries and interviews, please liaise with Ms Siziwe Zuma on 079 519 2688 / Siziwe.Zuma@psira.co.za. |

Issued by Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority's Communication Unit