



## Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

**To: News Editors**

**For Immediate Release**

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#### **PSiRA REINS IN NON-COMPLIANT PRIVATE SECURITY BUSINESSES**

**Centurion**-In a week that saw unscrupulous practitioners in this, arguably third largest private security industry in the world (2015 *AfricaCheck* Report), running for cover, the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSiRA) made some tumultuous arrests that lifted the lid against appalling ill practices in the industry.

For the past three weeks, PSiRA has been hot on the heels of non-compliant businesses and security officers mainly in the so-called big cities. However, in this week's operations, the Authority cast its net to what would otherwise be perceived as dim lit cities towns such as Mbombela/Nelspruit, Fordsburg, Randfontein, Ga-Rankuwa and Port Elizabeth (joint operation with South African Police Service). A total of 141 individual arrests were made and 8 Directors/Owners of private security businesses were successfully brought to book. These multi-pronged operations resulted in 174 criminal cases against non-compliant individuals between 11-14 May 2020. Of these, 11 criminal cases were opened in the Western Cape.

This week our operations focussed on the following four things:

- Unregistered security officers.
- Security officers using false identities of South African citizens. Identity theft is a serious offence. The Code of Conduct Obligation for Employers, clauses 6, 8 and 11 prescribe that employers have an obligation to ensure that the people they recruit as Security Officers are legitimate. Failure to do so may mean that they are complicit to the crime.
- The use of private firearms for rendering private security services.
- Undocumented foreign nationals.

From the 508 inspected, a whopping 127 were untrained and a staggering 136 security officers were found not to be registered with PSiRA. 284 Security Officers inspected either did not have their PSiRA ID cards or those who had them on, were already expired.

Surprisingly, our weekly inspections unravel a surge in the number of security officers not linked to the businesses they work for (198 Security Officers this week), sparking a rife suspicion that some security companies under report the employees linked to them in order not to pay the correct proportional fees to the Regulator and/or even lamentably, not register their employees with UIF.

In Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, two Directors (aged 46 and 29) of a so-called security company, were arrested for running an unregistered security business in an Aldo, about 6 Kilometres outside the city. This is a serious offence; the pair were taken into police custody.

PSiRA CEO, Manabela Sam Chauke emphasised that, “all security service providers, without any exception, remain bound by the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Security Service Providers, 2003, even during the lockdown.”

Marshalled by Adv Linda Mbana [Executive Head: Law Enforcement], our Inspectors have a Herculean task to uproot non-compliance in the industry, undeterred.

We appreciate the public for their tip-offs which are trickling in from all angles.

For anonymous tip-offs, please call the independent anti-fraud hotline: 0860 333 036 or e-mail [psira@behonest.co.za](mailto:psira@behonest.co.za)

**ENDS**

Issued by Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority’s Communication Unit

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