



Press statement

13 July 2021

SAPOA calls for greater action

It is clear from yesterday's and last night's escalation of looting and destruction of retail outlets and shopping centres in the Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal provinces, that shopping centres are being targeted and are first in line with regards to looting. This anarchy has resulted in well over R10b worth of damage.

Neil Gopal, SAPOA CEO says, "Even though President Cyril Ramaphosa appealed last night for calm and has authorised the deployment of 2500 SANDF personnel, these security measures are simply not enough to quell this level of violence and destruction of private property."

"We appeal to the Presidency to significantly increase the number of soldiers to be deployed with immediate effect."

"Disturbingly, we are also seeing food distribution centres in Durban being looted and destroyed. This will further exacerbate the crisis and have lasting implications on our food security and the food chain in general. Even if we can get distribution centres to deliver to our supermarkets, it will not be possible for the public to purchase goods at malls that have already been burnt and vandalised, or simply closed due to threats of violence."

"We are also alarmed that citizens are now arming themselves in an attempt to protect their own property. This is not surprising (in the absence of policing), but it is a dangerous situation if not brought under control."

SAPOA calls upon the Presidency to urgently:

1. Increase the deployment of more soldiers with immediate effect;
2. Declare certain areas of the economy like the ports, hospitals, clinics, food distribution centres, communications towers, shopping centres etc as key national points to be guarded by the military;
3. Restore law and order;
4. Ensure that the soldiers and SAPS keep citizens in their communities and that citizens stay indoors;
5. Ensure that the Covid19 vaccination programme is back on track and that
6. Law enforcement agencies act swiftly and decisively against the perpetrators of violence and unlawful acts.

Kind regards

NEIL GOPAL

Chief Executive Officer