



NEWS RELEASE

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CoRMSA condemns threats by local small business owners to foreign business owners in Ekurhuleni

JOHANNESBURG— CoRMSA expresses its concern over a march that was organized on 3rd November in Johannesburg by a group of local business owners from Ekurhuleni. Local small business owners, religious groups, and residents from Ekurhuleni marched yesterday in Johannesburg against foreign nationals running businesses in their townships threatening that violence would erupt if their demands are not met.

Speaking in the name of the local small business owners from Ekurhuleni, Mr. Baznaar Moloi was quoted saying that “there is a fertile ground for xenophobic attacks to happen in Ekurhuleni.” Such irresponsible utterances are not acceptable in a democratic society such as ours, as they tend to fuel violence and advocate for mob justice against certain sections of our society.

“Xenophobic threats and violence in our communities are not a solution. Inclusive dialogue between all community members, government, other service providers and civil society—such as, in this case, the broader business community—is essential. This kind of engagement, not threats, violence and disregard for the rule of law, will avoid non-nationals being blamed for problems which are deeply felt yet rooted elsewhere” Roshan Dadoo, the Acting Director of CoRMSA, stated.

CoRMSA appeals to the Premier of Gauteng province and other key role players to stand firmly against any form of xenophobia in Gauteng and elsewhere in the country as this does not bring about any solution to the economic grievances of the local population.

CoRMSA further appeals to the Premier to convene an urgent meeting with all the stakeholders to unpack the grievances of the protesting community members and work together to ensure that legitimate rights of non-nationals in the country are upheld.

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