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**CoRMSA condemns the Civil Unrest in South Africa and calls for Calm and Amicable Solutions in Eswatini.**

Johannesburg – 23 July 2021, the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA), vigorously condemns the civil unrests, damage to properties and lootings that took place in South Africa over the past two weeks. These civil unrest and lootings has left the economy and societies of South Africa in shambles, leaving both local and migrant communities in a terrible psychological and economic turmoil. CoRMSA calls upon all residents of South Africa to refrain from and to discourage these social ills that paints our beloved democratic South Africa as a hot spot for crimes, lawlessness, lack of leadership and hostility, unpleasant for investment and for our internal economic development.

“This is our democratic country that we have all been longing for, for many years and that we still want to be part of our lives. The country is currently going through a lot with the Covid-19 pandemic and it does not deserve another pandemic through these social ills caused and initiated by its people. Let’s work together with our government to fight Covid-19 pandemic so that we go back to our normal lives. Who wants to go back to the normal life where there is nothing left to hold on to and everything destroyed by us? I bet there is no one,” says Thifuluheli Sinthumule – CoRMSA Director.

During the past weeks, both South African and international media, has been reporting a tight and violent civil unrest in the Kingdom of Eswatini which allegedly emanated from the citizens’ outcry for democratic reforms, resulting in the loss of many lives, damage to properties and causing an economic worry for the government of Eswatini. However, CoRMSA acknowledges the alleged said demands by the beloved residents of Eswatini, but does not approve nor support violent protests that put the lives of many in danger. CoRMSA with respect, urges the government of Eswatini to openly meet with its residents to engage on the residents’ demands and to amicably address the situation and find sustainable solutions that are best suited for both parties. The unfolding of such civil unrest has left both countries in an unprecedented and extremely disturbing situations, posing a threat to human lives and destabilising the countries’ economies. The current situations have worsened both countries’ advances in battling Covid-19, leaving abiding residents of both countries and workers scared and hopeless of losing their jobs, businesses and lives. In addition, this has also negatively impacted and put immense pressure on life saving healthcare service delivery.

CoRMSA further calls residents of both countries to work together in bringing both countries to normality, restore peace and resuscitate the economic activities and livelihoods that many poor and the working class depends on for daily survival. Additionally, CoRMSA extends its gratitude to all relevant authorities, business, families, individuals and communities who have played a crucial role in quelling the unrests. CoRMSA extends its condolences to the families of those who have lost their beloved ones during this period of unrest.

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