

MEDIA RELEASE PSA outraged after businessman accused of threatening women is released on warning

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is dismayed by an incident at VLAMO Restaurant in Sandton, where a businessman was allegedly captured on video threatening and verbally abusing a group of women.

The footage, which circulated widely on social media, sparked public outrage and again placed the safety and dignity of women under the national spotlight. The PSA welcomes reports that law-enforcement authorities acted swiftly and that a criminal case is being investigated following the incident. The PSA is, however, disappointed and deeply concerned that, after his arrest, the alleged perpetrator was reportedly released on a warning without appearing in court. Whilst South Africa continues to confront the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, any form of intimidation, abuse, or threat directed at women must be met with decisive action and the full might of the law. This incident also comes against the backdrop of recent brutal killings of women on the East Rand and across the Country. These incidents continue to traumatise communities and highlight the urgent need for stronger protection for women.

The PSA calls on the Department of Home Affairs to review the immigration and citizenship status of the alleged perpetrator where facts and applicable legislation warrant such a review. The PSA also calls on the Department of Transport and SANRAL to expedite the investigation into the appointment of *Moriel Infrastructure Group*, associated with the businessman to determine whether all legal, procurement, and contractual requirements were complied with.

Government and law-enforcement authorities must demonstrate a commitment to protecting women and combating gender-based violence by ensuring that all allegations are thoroughly investigated and that this matter is handled with the necessary seriousness. Where criminal conduct is proven in a court of law, appropriate sanctions must be imposed. Decisive action against those who abuse, intimidate, or threaten women will send a clear message that South Africa will not tolerate such violence, regardless of a perpetrator's social standing, wealth, or influence. Should the courts find the accused guilty, all lawful consequences available under South African law should be pursued, including immigration consequences, where applicable.

The PSA stands in solidarity with the women affected by this incident and with all victims of gender-based violence. The PSA calls on government, law-enforcement agencies, employers, and civil society to cooperate in ensuring that women are protected, respected, and can live free from fear.

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