



LION MATCH PRODUCTS
(PTY) LTD

MEDIA STATEMENT

06 JUNE 2022

BY HAND

Dear Sirs,

RE: DUDULA PROTEST AT THE LION MATCH FACTORY- ROSSLYN

I am Tumi Mabaso, the HR Manager of the Lion Match Rosslyn Factory. I am based at the factory. On 9th May 2022 we received a copy of a memorandum that was meant for PRADA factory and Afrit. This memorandum was clearly not for Lion Match as Lion Match did not receive any prior correspondence from Dudula organisation prior to this memorandum and the memorandum makes reference to those companies and not Lion Match itself. In the circumstances, Lion match was not obliged to respond to correspondence not involving the other companies.

On 24th May 2022, Dudula started a protest action outside the gates of Lion Match blocking it and preventing vehicles, employees and visitors from entering or leaving the premises. This action was illegal and totally uncalled for. The crowd of approximately 100 people became volatile and threatening. It was indicated by Dudula that it did not matter whether or not any employees that the company may have were legal or illegal immigrants. On that day, two executives from the Head Office is Durban were present and acceded to a demand for a meeting, in the hopes of deescalating the volatility of the situation as there were threats from Dudula to break down the gates and storm the premises. A meeting was held with our HR Executive, Mr Mbeje and Commercial Executive, Mr Singh, the HR Manager of Rosslyn, Mr Mabaso, the factory manager, Mr Visagie and the General Work Manager Mr Jooste together with Mr D Ratladi, Ms D Ledingoane, Mr M Mahlangu, Mr B Boitumelo, Mr R Rendani, along with members of the South African Police Services who were present owing to the nature of the gathering outside of the premises . This meeting was a good faith gesture by the company. At this meeting the representative of Dudula made baseless accusations that Lon Match employed 100s of illegal immigrants, they claimed that they received this information employees employed by the company but did not disclose who and neither did they disclose the actual employees that they stated were illegal immigrants. In essence, this was mere hearsay and Dudula acted on hearsay information without getting any evidence or proof of these unsubstantiated claims. Dudula representatives inform the Lion representatives about the unemployment of locals and the existence of illegal immigrants. Lion representatives sympathized with this and acknowledged the rate of unemployment. The employees of Lion Match are long standing and local. Unfortunately, the Dudula representatives refused to accept that Lion Match does not have any illegal foreigners in their employment. The Dudula representatives presented CVs of 126 people for Lion Match to consider in the event that Lion Match would employ additional people. Dudula representatives were informed that at present Lion Match was not employing but would keep these CVs in the database for future reference. Two additional members of Dudula (including Mr Mpho Langa)

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aggressively stormed into the meeting and insisted that the meeting must be stopped and that the gates of Lion Match factory be opened and their members be allowed to enter the factory to stop production and to be allowed to remove any illegal immigrants as alleged. The meeting ended as there was no firm decision by Dudula.

On Friday, the 3rd June 2022, Dudula again assembled its member outside the gate and again disrupted the access to factory by vehicles, employees and visitors being unable to enter or leave the premises. They were there for approximately 3 hours and then dispersed. The leaders of Dudula promised to return on Monday with 100s of members to create a blockage of the factory and to stop production. The company in these trying times cannot afford these types of disruptions and lawlessness. In the circumstances, the company obtained an urgent interdict to prevent Dudula from disrupting the business and the factory and to ensure the safety of employees and visitors. There are certain chemicals in the factory that highly explosive and require special care. Therefore, any invasion by a mob can result in devastation. An interdict was granted preventing Dudula members from coming within 20 metres of the front gate.

Dudula leadership are making unsubstantiated statements about agreements that do not exist and are merely figment of their imagination. This behaviour cannot be tolerated and the leadership of Dudula needs to prevent unnecessary confrontation and deal with any grievances in an orderly manner. The Lion Match Company is a corporate company which abides by the laws of South Africa. We have seen the damage caused by mass hysteria and urge Dudula leadership and the media to prevent the dissemination of disinformation.

We invite the Department of Labour to inspect employment records and to give assurances to the media and Dudula that this misinformation about the employment of illegal immigrants is untrue.

Tumi Mabaso

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