



STATEMENT



AN APPEAL – AND A COMMITMENT – TO SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Business Schools Association (SABSA) is horrified by the scale of anarchy that has engulfed our country and specifically the looting, burning and violence against businesses and properties in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives, the devastation of businesses and the harm to livelihoods.

We have noted the growing response from communities across the country against lawlessness and appeals for calm and peace. South Africans will not tolerate anarchy and wanton destruction of property and infrastructure.

While we condemn in the strongest terms the selfish opportunism that sparked this criminality, we are extremely mindful of the incredible structural inequality that continues to exist in our country. Poverty, inequality and unemployment remains a persistent challenge in our country.

As a non-profit organisation consisting of business schools spread across South Africa, SABSA's role at the intersection between business and higher education, is to create leaders who understand the importance of economic growth and development in eradicating poverty and inequality. The role of business in creating sustainable jobs is undeniable. Business is a powerful force for public good and prosperity for everyone. SABSA member schools have been working with both business and public sector to finding sustainable solutions for our country's problems. With the onset of the pandemic and hard lockdown in South Africa since March last year, SABSA members have played a key role in facilitating thought leadership events to build resilience through strategic interventions.

We are committed to collaborate with government, business and the community for a better future for all South Africans.

We appeal for calm and respect for the rule of law. We urge an immediate end to the pillaging and destruction. We commend all those brave South Africans, whether in uniform or not, who are risking their own lives to restore and maintain order.

Issued by Dr Randall Jonas, Chairperson, on behalf of the South African Business Schools Association (SABSA) - www.sabsa.co.za