



## **PRESS RELEASE: MANDATORY REGISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SAFETY REGULATIONS IN SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION RENTALS**

In light of the recent disturbing murder incidents in short-term accommodations, prioritizing and enforcing existing regulations is a critical step in addressing and mitigating these concerning occurrences.

The Private Security Regulatory Authority has implemented stringent safety protocols aimed at enhancing security and accountability within these premises. Security guards are now legally mandated to record the identification details of all individuals entering these premises, documenting their time of entry and exit; and temporarily retain all visitors' identification documents. Moreover, these measures mandate the installation of CCTV surveillance systems, ensuring that the recording of footage remains consistently up-to-date.

Effective immediately, all operators of short-term accommodation rentals, including Airbnbs, are required to register with the Tourism Regulatory Authority (TRA). This registration process is designed to ensure that all accommodations meet the highest standards of safety and security for guests.

Starting from 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs), in collaboration with the TRA, will commence stringent inspections of all registered properties. We will subsequently coordinate with booking platforms to restrict unregistered rentals and further institute severe penalties, including fines and revocation in cases of non-compliance.

Resident Associations are encouraged to work closely with law enforcement agencies for effective enforcement. This includes sharing information, joint inspections, and coordinated responses to any safety standard violations.

This initiative underscores our commitment to safeguarding the well-being of individuals using these services. We urge all stakeholders in the short-term rental sector to adhere to these regulations, recognizing their legal and moral responsibility in ensuring a safe environment for all individuals regardless of gender.

We also call for increased public awareness and action to address the global issue of violence against women. It's crucial that stakeholders at all levels – Government, community, individuals and international actors – collaborate to create a safer environment for women and hold perpetrators accountable.

The Director of Criminal Investigations has formed a dedicated team to tackle cases of femicide, and with rigorous enforcement, our goal is to foster a safer space for everyone.

Together, we can build a more secure community for all.

**DR. RAYMOND OMOLLO, PhD, CBS**

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