



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Friday, 16 July 2021**

**The SPAR Group Ltd (SPAR)**

### **CIVIL UNREST UPDATE - DELIVERIES ARE COMMENCING AND STORES RE-OPENING FOR BUSINESS**

- The distribution of stock to stores has resumed in KwaZulu Natal
- SPAR is working tirelessly to replenish SPAR retailer shelves to support their communities
- The clean-up of looted and damaged stores is under way

As a result of looting and vandalism over the past few days across Gauteng, and predominantly KwaZulu Natal (KZN), a total of 184 stores (including 62 TOPS liquor stores and 31 Build it stores) have been severely impacted. This represents roughly 7% of the SPAR store network across Southern Africa. SPAR stores across the rest of the regions have remained fully operational during this time.

SPAR has prioritised the safety of its people and the security of its assets to minimise the loss of infrastructure essential to supporting its independent retailers within the region. Stores in the affected areas are opening when safe to do so. As of today, SPAR trucks have been dispatched for the first time this week under security escorts. SPAR plans to make deliveries over the next two days into all KZN stores that are able to open for business. This is expected to bring much needed relief to the communities we serve.

#### **Commenting on the situation, CEO, Brett Botten said:**

“This is a sad time for our country. The lives of so many people have been severely impacted. We are engaging with various stakeholders to help manage this crisis and we are doing everything we can to alleviate the growing concerns around food shortages. We will support our retailers in rebuilding the businesses they have lost and also, the communities they serve. We are working closely with our suppliers and are focused on getting stock to shelves. We are also making contingency plans in the areas most impacted. We thank the SPAR retailers and customers for their understanding, co-operation and patience during this stressful time for all concerned”.

**ENDS**

#### **About The SPAR Group Ltd (SPAR)**

*The SPAR Group Ltd (SPAR) listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in October 2004. Listed in the Food and Drug Retailers index, it is a warehousing and distribution business, supporting a network of independent retailers who trade under the SPAR retail brand.*

*In South Africa, SPAR's brands include SUPERSPAR, SPAR, KWIKSPAR, SPAR Express, TOPS at SPAR (liquor offering), SaveMor, Build it (home building offering), Pharmacy at SPAR (pharmaceutical offering) and SPAR Encore (private label procurement). In Ireland (and South West England) its brands include SPAR, Eurospar, MACE, XL, Londis and VALUE CENTRE. In Switzerland, its brands include SPAR, SPAR Express, MAXI and TopCC. In Poland it's brands include Piotr i Pawel (in the process of conversion to SPAR) and SPAR. SPAR also has a joint venture operation in Sri Lanka.*

*SPAR is part of the SPAR international organisation, the world's leading voluntary food retail chain and the biggest independent supermarket retail network in the world. This global brand, prides itself on supporting independent retailers, working in partnership to provide a high quality, value for money shopping experience for the communities it serves.*

**For more information about SPAR - [www.investor-relations.spar.co.za](http://www.investor-relations.spar.co.za)**