

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BCM to intensify clampdown on Businesses to enforce Bylaws**

The Municipality is set to intensify its clampdown on businesses that are flaunting Municipal By-laws this weekend.

This has been prompted by numerous public complaints about businesses operating outside their licensing conditions. As we head towards the World Cup, we need to ensure that the safety of our people in Buffalo City is of paramount importance.

This campaign is running concurrently with the drunken driving blitz which last weekend saw 445 motorists being arrested for drunken driving offences.

The planned operation is spearheaded by the City's Law Enforcement and Traffic Services.

So far, seven places have been raided with two closed down for non compliance. Others have been issued with strict time-bound warnings. The areas visited are in Duncan Village, Vincent, and Cambridge.

We will target all establishments in BCM like restaurants, bars, clubs and taverns to check if they are complying with laws and by-laws.

The operation is aimed at rooting out all illegal elements and at clamping down on businesses flouting the by-laws.

Other stakeholders involved in the operation include the City's Disaster Management Unit, Fire and Rescue team, the Eastern Cape Liquor Board, South African Police Service (SAPS), Municipal Business Licensing, Municipal Health Services and the City Planning Division.

Information on what procedures need to be followed when applying for a business permit will also be available to the owners.

During the raids, the various stakeholders will check whether businesses comply with all their standards and by-laws.

**The fire and rescue division:** will check for things like access for fire fighting and rescue purposes; availability of fire protection equipment; safety signs; and adequate availability of escape routes, fire escape doors and emergency exits.

**The Eastern Cape Liquor Board:** will check the general conditions applicable to all license holders, such as not selling alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.

**- More -**

**The City planning division:** will check zoning requirements, land usage compliancy and building control measurements.

**Traffic services** will check for violations of traffic laws, motorist and pedestrian safety, and traffic compliancy.

**The SAPS** will check the safety of patrons and whether any illegal activities are taking place.

**Other stipulations include:**

\* No loud music may be played at the outlet; music may not be audible beyond the boundary perimeter of the premises.

\* No speakers or audio equipment may be placed outside the building and no-one may drink alcohol in or around the premises other than in the area demarcated for such purpose.

The registrant is obliged to report such activities to the nearest police station. The registered person or owner also needs to apply with the board for a manager to be appointed who will be responsible in the absence of the owner or registered person.

**- Ends -**