



MEDIA STATEMENT

17 DECEMBER 2010

The Free State MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Mxolisi Dukwana has committed his department to open and frank negotiations with the Free State Liquor Traders. In a Government Gazette issued on Tuesday 14 December 2010, MEC Dukwana has made interim amendments to the Free State Liquor and Gambling Act to give further consultation a chance. According to the Chairperson of the newly established Free State Liquor and Gambling Authority, Mr Dhiloson Pillay, it is very important for Government and the Liquor Industry to find a common path in dealing with the regulation of the liquor industry in the Free State. To this end, the Free State Government established a task team consisting of, liquor traders, SAB, SAPS and the Free State Government. Among concessions made by MEC Dukwana are the following;

- License renewal fees will be increased by 50%
- Renewals applications will be accepted until 28 February 2011
- Old trading hours will be applicable to the current license holders until the process of the amendment of the new Act has been completed
- For purposes of renewal, old license categories will remain in force until the amendment to the Act has been made
- New applicants should take note that the Free State Gambling and Liquor Act, 2010 (Act 6 of 2010) will be applicable to the new applications without any concessions

Among others, the new Act makes provision for the Board of the FSGLA to;

- consider, grant or refuse applications in terms of this Act;
- cancel, suspend, vary, renew or revoke a license or registration approved by it subject to this Act

Compliance with the Act and regulations will receive added attention during the festive season and any non-compliance may lead to the cancellation and/or prosecution. A team of liquor license inspectors and Designated Police Officers (DPO's) are responsible for an estimated 5000 – 6000 licensed liquor outlets in the Province.

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Issued by: Communication Unit
Enquiry: Kgotso Tau
Contact Details: 051 400 9542/ 082 833 9595

COMMUNICATION & ICT

34 Bojanala Building
Markgraaf Street
Bloemfontein
9300

Private Bag X 20801
Bloemfontein
9300

Tel +27 (0)51 400 9542
Fax +27 (0)51 400 9541
e-mail: tauk@detea.fs.gov.za