

MEDIA RELEASE

OPERATION PATELA- “OPERATE WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE LAW”

The City of Matlosana embarked on Operation Patela around KOSH area. The law enforcement team comprising of Community Services, Licensing, Water, Electrical, Town Planning painted Kanana Township lime when inspectorate searched for relevant licenses to operate key businesses. The campaign is aimed at encouraging the community to pay for their services and apply for permits to operate in their respective businesses. The community were urged to alert the council of any irregular acts or malpractices happening around their areas.

The findings were that most tucks shop operate without licenses and they are mostly operated by the foreign nationals, some without asylum documents. The licenses were not displayed in the premises as stipulated by the by-laws. Others were selling expired goods, while others operated butcheries without cold rooms with meat just put on the filthy floors that could attract contamination and lead to food poisoning.

Most of the businesses operated in houses and were not demarcated as businesses and robbed the municipality because they were billed for household services instead of business. Display advertising signs promoting those services without paying for outdoor advertising further robbed the council substantial amount of money. Others business owners played ignorance that they were not aware of the contraventions. The business owners were given fines ranges from R2500.00 – R10 000.00 and landlords were also given fines notices to appear at the municipal offices according to their offences.

The municipality urges all the residents to always apply for approval for any building alterations or any additional structure in their yards. The Building and Town Planning Departments will advise the applicants accordingly. Buildings that were not approved and pose danger to their occupants will be demolished. People should avoid building or starting any business without approval to avoid penalties and to comply with the law. The illegal mushrooming of backrooms or unapproved structures suppress services like sewer and electricity thus promote regular interruptions.

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