

Media Statement

For Immediate release

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MORE ARRESTS AND FINES AS EDTEA INTENSIFIES BUSINESS INSPECTIONS ACROSS KZN

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), Mr. Ravi Pillay, has expressed disappointment that while many businesses are complying with Business Regulations and Covid-19 protocols there are a few that continue to show a flagrant disregard for these.

This comes as 37 businesses were either fined, closed down or served with notices for various transgressions during business inspections conducted in various parts of the province last week.

Between the 04th and the 08th of January 2021, EDTEA's Business Regulations Unit, working together with law enforcement agencies and other government departments, conducted inspections at 59 business premises in Ethekewini, Abaqulusi, Msunduzi, uMshwathi, uMngeni, Mpofana, Richmond, uMkhambathini, Impendle and Kokstad municipalities.

The operations led to the following:

- 37 businesses were issued with notices or fines or closed for contravening applicable legislations
- 18 Illegal immigrants or undocumented persons were arrested
- 24 people were arrested for failure to comply with verbal instruction from a law officer to wear a face mask in a public place.
- 42 people were arrested for either breaking the curfew, consuming alcohol in a public place or selling or distributing liquor

"The Covid-19 cases are rising at a worrying rate. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that we protect ourselves, our families and those we don't even know from being infected with the virus. But we must do the basics. These inspections will go a long way in achieving just that, enforcing the basic adherence to the Covid-19 protocols," said MEC Pillay

He said it was disheartening to see so many businesses still flouting basic trade and operating regulations.

“As more businesses resume operations following the festive season break, we appeal for stricter adherence to the regulations and protocols. The observance of Covid-19 protocols should be a natural discipline by now. We will continue with our education and where that fails enforcement will follow,” concluded MEC Pillay.

ENDS

Issued by the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs

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