



**COGHSTA**

**Department of Cooperative Governance,  
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs  
NORTHERN CAPE**

**MEDIA STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 2025**

**MEC BENTLEY VASS REMINDS OWNERS OF SMALL BUSINESSES, SPAZA SHOPS, AND OTHER FOOD-HANDLING CONVENIENCE STORES TO REGISTER THEIR BUSINESSES BY THE EXTENDED DEADLINE OF 28 FEBRUARY 2025.**

MEC Bentley Vass responsible for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), in the Northern Cape, reminds all owners of small businesses, spaza shops, and other food-handling convenience stores across the Northern Cape, to register their businesses by the extended deadline of Friday, 28 February 2025, by approaching their local municipalities across the province.

Those who have registered their businesses and have duly received their registration acknowledgment still need to undertake further processing to obtain their trading licenses.

A total of 3119 spaza shops exist in the Northern Cape. A total of 2558 registration applications were received by municipalities across the Northern Cape, from July 2024 to date, and 1209 of these applications have been approved.

MEC Vass said, "We remind all businesses to register before the deadline of 28 February 2025, and applaud those already registered. This will assist the government to support this important sector of the economy better and ensure that we preserve lives. We are also happy that at this stage a total of twenty (20) municipalities have already adopted the standard by-laws to regulate the industry and ensure continued compliance with the regulations".

South Africans, who are landlords, are also prohibited by law, not to register businesses on behalf of illegal foreign nationals. Any South African who has been found to have fraudulently registered a business on behalf of an illegal foreign national will face the might of the Law.

A total of 1224 multi-disciplinary inspections have been conducted across the Northern Cape since November 2024, to strengthen adherence to legal frameworks governing trade and food safety, and a total of 130 spaza shops closed for non-compliance.

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**ISSUED BY THE NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGHSTA)**