



destea

department of
economic, small business development,
tourism and environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEDIA STATEMENT

FREE STATE'S CONSUMER AFFAIRS COURT SITTINGS ARE NOW ON THE ROLL

30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Bloemfontein: Following the swearing-in and affirmation of office to ten newly appointed Consumer Affairs Court officials, the Free State's Consumer Affairs Court's hearings are now in full swing, adjudicating on complaints of dissatisfied consumers. The court officials were sworn-in by MEC for Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Makalo Mohale on the 29th September 2020.

The court officials comprise of men and women who in their profession are attorneys and professors, whom in their busy schedules took an Oath to serve in the tribunal and service the ordinary people of the Free State free of charge. The members are said to resume duty on Friday the 1st of October - 2020 for a period of four years until the end of March - 2024.

Addressing the court officials, MEC Makalo Mohale thanked the members for showing interest in being the Free State's Consumer Affairs Court officials. "We are a department of economic development, part of our job is to ensure that there is economic justice. There are a number of challenges that are facing us. On top of the list, are illegal activities that are taking place in our communities with regards to business transactions. We are here on the behest of the consumers".

The names of the Consumer Affairs Court members are as follows:

No.	MEMBERS	No.	ALTERNATE MEMBERS
1.	Adv. N. M. Bahlekazi	1.	Adv. P. du Plessis Greyling
2.	Professor Dr. R. M. Jansen	2.	Adv. T. D. Segoe-Backward
3.	Mr. G. A. Sefo	3.	Mr. D. P. Huggett
4.	Me. D. N. Moeti	4.	Mr. F. Botha
5.	Mr. G. J. Bredenkamp	5.	Mr. L. M. S. Sesele

"Foreign-run shops is the main problem currently. This follows the shutdown in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu recently where the community and small businesses complain about the undocumented foreigners who run businesses. They sell illicit goods to the community", indicated Mr. Radikeledi of the Free State's Consumer Protection Office.



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In light of this, the court members' first assignment is to give and input into a Bill that Destea intends developing to deal with foreign-run shops. The Bill will then be sent to the State Law Advisory Services for congruence and conformity. It will then be published for solicitation of comments from the members of public.

The services at the Consumer Protection Office are speedy, confidential and free of charge. Consumer Affairs Court sittings do rotate in different districts of the province in an effort to bring the service closer to the people and to reach as many people as possible.

The Department continue to receive incredible upsurge of complaints and an avalanche of enquiries by consumers through telephone, fax or post, e-complaint system and the walk-in clients.

Many consumers are losing lot of money by paying unnecessary legal fees to representatives to handle their consumer complaints. Free Staters are urged to take advantage of this free and speedy service that government offers to its people.

If your rights as a consumer have been violated and trampled, it is imperative to complain effectively to the right people so that your complaint receives attention and is resolved quickly and free of charge.

Consumers can contact the Consumer Protection Office at:

Physical Address: 113 St. Andrew Street, Bloemfontein, 9300
Postal Address: Private Bag X 20801, Bloemfontein, 9300
Tel: 051 400 9656/ 9611/4857/ 4854/ 4855/ 9612/ 4856
e-complaint system: Access the e-government portal through the e-services
URL www.eservices.gov.za
Fax: 086 514 6112
E-mail: radikelt@destea.gov.za
Website: www.destea.gov.za

END

Issued by the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs:

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