

PRESS RELEASE BY ALBERT FRITZ
WESTERN CAPE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
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Minister Fritz calls on residents to report liquor vendors operating outside of the law

The Minister of Community Safety, Albert Fritz, calls on residents to report liquor vendors operating outside of the law. Between 27 March and 23 October 2020, the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) has investigated 196 incidents of liquor vendors reportedly contravening the National Disaster Management Act's regulations (the regulations) and the Western Cape Liquor Act (the Act).

Of the 196 investigations, 83 section 71 matters were placed on the Liquor Licensing Tribunal's (LLT) case roll, of which:

- 49 licences were suspended;
- 23 applications were dismissed; and
- 11 applications are pending.

Of the 49 licences that were suspended, 49 section 71 (4) return hearings took place. Of the 49 hearings:

- One licence was revoked after finalisation of a section 20 consideration, while 46 suspensions were lifted by the LLT;
- Two suspensions were lifted, one in the Western Cape High Court and one as part of an internal Appeal Tribunal proceeding; and
- There are no return hearings pending.

Minister Fritz said, "Sixty-five COVID-19 related section 20 matters were forwarded to the LLT of which one licence was revoked and five applications were dismissed while in three matters, licensees were issued with stricter conditions. A further three licence were suspended."

Minister Fritz added, "In 17 matters fines to the amount of R1 951 220 were issued, of which an amount of R1 031 220 was suspended for a period of 24-months on condition that the licence holder does not contravene the Act and licence conditions again during this period. Thirty-six matters are pending."

Minister Fritz continued, "I urge members of the public who are aware of any liquor related contraventions of the regulations or Act to immediately report such to SAPS."

Any persons wanting to lodge a complaint against a license holder or report a contravention of the Regulations can also contact the WCLA on 021 204 9805."

Attention broadcasters, please find English audio clip attached.

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