



## Fighting sale of Illicit alcohol pays-off

Subsequent to the tipoff that the illicit trade of alcohol is thriving in East End Business Park - Bloemfontein, DESTEA Consumer Protection unit, together with SAPS Crime Intelligence, and SARS, swiftly responded by raiding the area today. The operation task team found male suspect of Chinese origin in possession of boxes of alcohol whose labels and bottle caps were tempered with. This is in contravention of the Consumer Protection Act. The business address of the suspect reflects as Botshabelo, but the business operates in Bloemfontein. Furthermore, the suspect found not to have working permit and his Visa

had expired. The joint task team confiscated boxes of illicit alcohol and the suspect was charged with contravention of the Consumer Protection Act, number 68 of 2008, Counterfeit Goods Act, number 37 of 1997, as well as non-compliance with the Business Act 71 of 1991. In terms of counterfeit products contravention, the fine may be up to maximum amount of R1 million or imprisonment. DESTEA MEC Thabo Meeko commended the team for this great success and sent stern warnings to Illicit alcohol traders. MEC indicated his deep concern towards safety risks associated with the consumption of illicit alcohol.

“Clearly, if we bring all expertise to work together as a collective, we can achieve more. This is a promising journey proving that we can reclaim our economy, reconstruct, and restore it to the People of the Free State,” said MEC Meeko. MEC committed that DESTEA will leave no stone unturned to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. He further urged members of the public across the province to report any illegal/illicit alcohol trade to the nearest police station OR send a WhatsApp message to DESTEA Customer Care Unit on: 0829475394. Facebook page: official destea and/or Twitter: @FSDestea.



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## President Ramaphosa leads 2023 Human Rights Day commemoration

President Cyril Ramaphosa led the 2023 Human Rights Day commemoration that took place in De Aar, in the Northern Cape Province where he delivered the keynote address. The theme for this first commemorative day on the annual national calendar is “Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future”. The history of Human Rights Day is grounded in the Sharpeville

Massacre that took place on the 21 of March 1960, where apartheid police killed 69 anti-apartheid protesters. Human Rights Day also honours 35 people who were killed on 21 March 1985 when apartheid police targeted community members after a funeral at Uitenhage/Langa. As part of the democratic dispensation, South Africa observes March as Human Rights Month to promote respect for basic human

rights for all and restore and uphold human dignity in line with the Bill of Rights. This period also honours those who fought for liberation, and celebrates the many rights guaranteed under the Constitution, and which are the basis for building a united and inclusive, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society. Government, social partners and constitutional institutions such as the South African Human Rights

Commission are guided by the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The National Action Plan provides the basis for raising awareness of anti-racism, equality and anti-discrimination issues and developing collective responses.

“De Aar in the Northern Cape has been selected as the site for the national Human Rights Day commemoration as part of government’s rotation of national days that ensures that communities in all provinces are able to be part of such occasions,” the Presidency said in a statement.

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# HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2023

Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into The Future

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