



Attention: Editors/Journalists

For Immediate Release

21st January 2010

ILLEGAL UNDERTAKERS

Emfuleni Local Municipality is experiencing an unprecedented high number of illegal undertakers operating within its jurisdiction. It is estimated that, about 418 both legal and illegal operators are doing business in Emfuleni. This estimated number is derived from the register handed over to Emfuleni by Lekoa Cemeteries.

It should be mentioned that some operators are from outside the borders of Emfuleni but operating in this jurisdiction. Emfuleni's Environmental Management, Health and Social Department conducted a study on the 12th August 2008 to 25th November 2008, with the intention to establish the existence of these operators and monitoring compliance to the requirements of health standards and legislation pertaining to it.

It was established that a mere 45 operators are registered or known within Emfuleni, as they have registered with the department. It is only 29 of these operators that are complying with the health standards and complying with the law, thus having been granted permanent certificates of compliance, whilst six (6) are complying, and are in the process of registration, thus granted provisional certificates, and 10 are not complying at all, and have been given individual court interdicts.

The breakdown per area is as follows:

Area	Court Interdict	Provisional status	Permanent
Vereeniging	1 (one)	None	9 (Nine)
Roshnee	None	None	1 (One)
Ironside	None	None	1 (One)
Dickinsonville	None	1 (One)	1 (One)
Sharpeville	1 (One)	None	None
Sebokeng	8 (Eight)	3 (Three)	13 (Thirteen)
Boipatong	None	1 (One)	None
Vanderbijlpark	None	1 (One)	4 (Four)

The areas that are greatly affected by these unregistered and non-complying undertakers are former black areas, such a Sebokeng, Evaton and Smallfarms. Communities are warned and urged to only use registered undertakers during the times of need. This will greatly assist them burying their loved ones in a dignified, respectable and legal way.

Communities are urged to demand certificates of compliance before they engage the services of their preferred undertaker, as municipality will not be held responsible, if people are buried in an illegal grave, cemetery, and in a shoddy manner.

Status of the complying and non-complying undertakers will be published in Libraries, in the municipal notice boards, municipal website and through the media. The Department of Environmental Health together with the By-Law Unit will close down all known unregistered undertakers, and impounded all illegal hearses from the road.

Emfuleni is taking “Zero Tolerance” to illegal businesses.

Issued by the Communications Unit

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