

18 SHOPS SHUT DOWN DUE TO NON-COMPLIANCE, ILLEGAL SAND MINERS FINED, 17 MOTORISTS FINED AND 5 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED DURING MUNICIPAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY JOINT OPERATION IN SENWABARWANA TOWN

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga has condemned the illegal operations of shops and selling expired food items by some shop operators in Senwabarwana Town.

Today, September 19, Mayor Thamaga and Council Speaker, Cllr Blanco Boloko, joined led a successful municipal public safety multi-disciplinary joint operation in a bid to curb non-compliance and lawlessness within the Senwabarwana town.

The operation was a joint programme by Blouberg Local Municipality Public Safety Division, Traffic Division, Waste and Environment, SAPS Senwabarwana, Department of Home Affairs (immigration office), Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and the Department of Mineral Resources. Municipal health and environmental health practitioners and disasters also formed part of the operation.

The operation was aimed at dealing with crime, fake and expired food items, illegal immigrants, motor vehicles road worthy and permits, drugs, illegal sand mining, illegal trading, unlicensed fire arms and other public safety concerns within the municipality.

Mayor Thamaga has called on business owners to ensure that their businesses are compliant with all the regulations guiding business operations.

"Off the 22 shops that we have visited today, we have found 18 of them to be illegal, operating without proper authorization. Those shops have been shut down until they come forward to settle their outstanding accounts, and those without correct papers must ensure that they have the right papers in place. They are in arrears, and this is something we can not allow to continue on our watch. "

Five illegal immigrants were taken in for contravening immigration acts, and expired food items were confiscated.

Mayor further warns the public to be cautious of possible health dangers of buying counterfeit and expired food products.

"We have seen reports circulating in the media of persons, especially children, who fell ill after consuming foodstuff purchased from these types of shops. That can't be tolerated in our area. Let's work together to curb non-compliance. "

The mayor thanked councilors, departments, and the dedicated personnel that took part in the operation.





