

COMPLIANCE IS NOT A TASK. IT'S A CULTURE

MOKOPANE: The Mogalakwena Local Municipality's Building Control Division, with the support of Law Enforcement, Local Economic Development (LED) and the Electrical Division, recently conducted a coordinated enforcement operation in Mokopane town aimed at addressing unauthorised spaza shops and other illegal business activities. The operation primarily targeted container-based shops and businesses operating from buildings without approved building plans, land-use approvals or the necessary municipal consents.

The enforcement action was undertaken to promote compliance, public safety and orderly development within the town. Officials focused on structures that posed potential health, safety and planning risks, particularly those erected or converted without adherence to approved building standards and zoning requirements. Business owners were engaged on-site and informed of the legal obligations required to operate lawfully within the municipal area.

The operation was guided by the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, Act 103 of 1977, relevant Municipal By laws on Land Use and Building Control, as well as the municipal Framework on Temporary Structures. These legislative instruments are designed to ensure that all developments meet safety standards, protect consumers, and create a fair and regulated business environment for both formal and informal traders.

As a result of the operation, ten (10) non-compliant shops were closed, and electricity supply was disconnected where illegal connections or unauthorised usage was identified. The Municipality emphasised that the enforcement action is not intended to discourage entrepreneurship, but rather to encourage business owners to regularise their operations and comply with applicable laws.

The Mogalakwena Local Municipality reiterated that compliance is a shared responsibility and forms the foundation of sustainable development, economic growth and community safety. Similar operations will continue as part of ongoing efforts to foster a culture of compliance, protect residents and support lawful economic activity across the municipal area.