



cooperative governance

Department:
Cooperative Governance
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROGRESS REPORT:
**REGISTRATION OF SPAZA SHOPS AND OTHER FOOD HANDLING
OUTLETS, AND INTERVENTIONS TO CURB FOODBORNE ILLNESSES**

25 MARCH 2025

PRESENTED TO:
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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PURPOSE

The purpose of the presentation to the Portfolio Committee is to –

- **Provide a report on the status of registration of spaza shops and other food handling outlets, and interventions to curb foodborne illnesses;** and
- Present interventions outlined in the **action plan.**

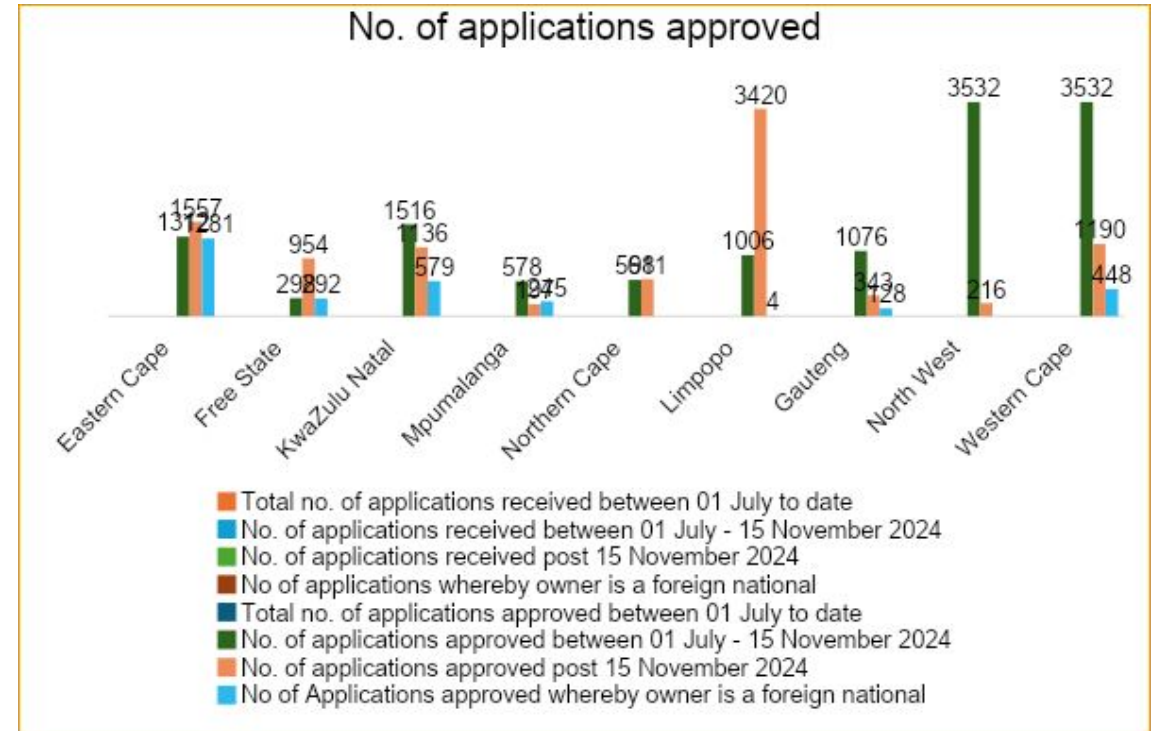
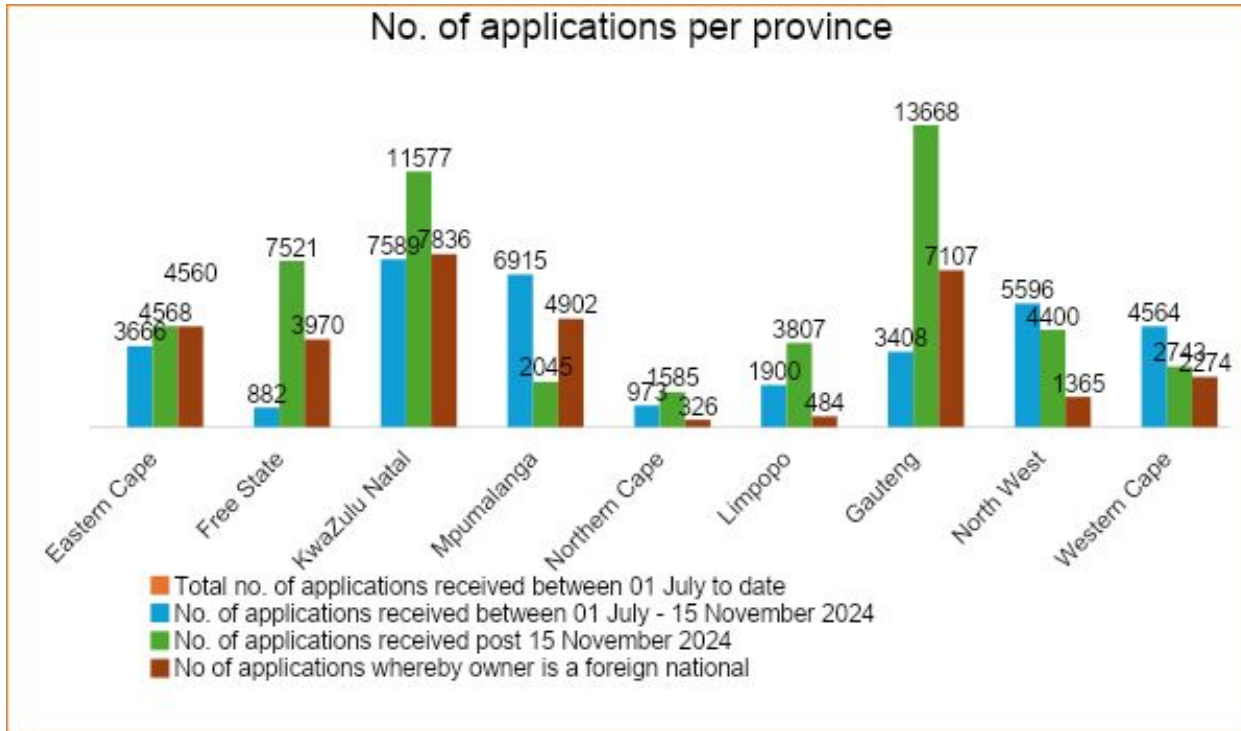
BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

DATE	ACTION
7 November 2024	CoGTA published the <u>SDB-TEs</u> to facilitate inclusive spatial and economic development.
15 November 2024	The President addressed the nation and pronounced on matters relating to foodborne illnesses. The President noted that the Cabinet had resolved on three interventions, namely, (i) Getting hazardous pesticides off the streets, (ii) protecting children from exposure to hazardous substances, and (iii) preventing future outbreaks. Effectively, intervention measures were outlined, including those that relate to the local government sector
18 November 2024	Foodborne illnesses were classified as a National Disaster (section 23 of the National Disaster Management Act)
28 November 2024	marked the end of the extended business licence registration period for all spaza shops and other food handling outlets to register with their municipalities
To effectively manage and coordinate the response to the crisis, <u>NATJOINTS established seven (7) workstreams</u> , namely -	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Legislation • Enforcement • Economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social • Communications • Threat Assessment

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- To further strengthen coordination of this work, the **Cabinet established an Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Task Team (IMDTT)** on Foodborne Illnesses **co-chaired** by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), and the Minister of Health.
- IMDTT received and discussed **reports from the NATJOINTS and joint submissions from DCoG and DSBD** on actions implemented to curb foodborne illnesses and efforts implemented to support the registration of spaza shops and other food handling outlets.
- **NATJOINTS workstreams have developed a series of recommendations,** which are outlined in the report detailing intervention strategies and compliance measures.
- Work on the registration of spaza shops and other food handling outlets, including interventions to curb foodborne illnesses, was coordinated by **NATJOINTS, PROVJOINTS and DISTRICTJOINTS.**
- All the metros and local municipalities (213) provide business registration services, and registration centres are spread across the municipalities - 62 (29%) municipalities have **digital business registration systems.**

PROVINCIAL REPORTS: NO. OF APPLICATIONS PER PROVINCE



- Out of **87 407** applications that were received from 01 July 2024 to 28 February 2025, **23 072** applications were approved.
- Of the **23 072** applications approved, **13 448 (15%)** approvals were made prior the Presidential announcements on 15 November 2024, whilst **9 624 (11%)** approvals were made post 15 November 2025.
- Of the **23 072** applications approved, **2 977** applications were from foreign nationals, representing **13%** of the total applications approved.

EMERGING ISSUES AND INTERVENTIONS TO CURB FOODBORNE ILLNESSES

- During the months of January and February 2025, **DSBD and NATJOINTS embarked on oversight visits** to the registration centres across the country. **Several challenges leading to delays in business licence approval processes** were identified. These include –
 - (i) delays in verifying documentation of foreign nationals;
 - (ii) lengthy processes for obtaining Certificates of Acceptability (CoA);
 - (iii) limited use of electronic systems for registrations;
 - (iv) more foreign nationals owning spaza shops than locals; and
 - (v) zoning of businesses operating on residential houses; and
 - (vi) (vi) lengthy process of business approval.
- **127 out of 213** municipalities adopted the SDB-TEs **(60%)** -
 - (i) **61 (29%)** municipalities have indicated that Council approvals were sought and are in the process of public participation.
 - (ii) **13 (6%)** municipalities indicated that they will not be adopting the SDBs because their by-laws are sufficient or that they would rather amend existing by-laws.
 - (iii) **12** municipalities in Limpopo and Western Cape did not provide any data. However, 5 of these municipalities indicated that they had existing by-laws.
- A **R500 million Spaza Shop Support Fund** (R150 million from DSBD and R350 million from DTIC) has been established to support township convenience shops, including spaza shops and food handling outlets. The fund will be used for business refurbishments, wholesale aggregation, and non-financial support such as skills training, regulatory compliance, and capacity building. The funding is set to open in March 2025.

EMERGING ISSUES AND INTERVENTIONS TO CURB FOODBORNE ILLNESSES

- **DSBD** has recruited **52 Business Regulation Officers on a 6-month contract**, each assigned to a district or metro across the country. **Additionally, 9 Assistant Directors (ASDs)** have been appointed to oversee and **supervise the Business Regulation Officers** at the provincial level.
- **DSBD** is also introducing a system called **“DSBD Connect”** which will serve as a platform designed to support township businesses in South Africa by offering a **comprehensive database, verification services, and strategic networking opportunities**. Its goal is to empower businesses by facilitating access to funding, credit loans, and partnerships with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). DSBD Connect will be officially **launched on 17 March 2025**.
- **DCoG** has committed to mobilise **100 000 Community Work Programme (CWP)** participants to undertake a clean-up campaigns across all provinces. To date, several CWP clean-up campaigns have been conducted in **KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga Provinces**.
- **Department of Health (DoH)** has submitted a request to the National Treasury for funding to appoint Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) to augment the capacity at municipal level.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Having regard to the recommendations approved by the IMDTT in 5.12, the action plan below represents a consolidation of activities that will be implemented to deal with the registration of spaza shops and other food handling outlets, and interventions to curb foodborne illnesses.

No	Key intervention	Responsibility	Timeline
(a)	Closure of shops implicated in deaths of children	DoH; DSBD; DCoG; DAgric; Municipalities	Ongoing
(b)	Registration and databasing of food handling businesses	DSBD; DCoG; DoH; DHA	Ongoing
(c)	Investigation, arrest and prosecution of offenders.	SAPS; DoH; NICD; NHLS; DAgric; FPS; BMA; NPA	Ongoing
(d)	Deployment of multidisciplinary enforcement teams	Municipalities, supported by NATJOINTS; PROVJOINTS; DISTRICT JOINTS; DSBD; DCoG; DoH; DHA	Ongoing
(e)	Protection of children from exposure to harmful substances	DBE; GCIS; DoH	Ongoing
(f)	Strengthening of Regulations and protocols on traceability, repackaging, destruction and sale of pesticides, insecticides and foodstuffs	DAgric; DoH; SAPS; DoJCD	Ongoing
(g)	Deployment of DDM Champions	Presidency; CoGTA	March 2025
(h)	Enforcement of By-Laws	Municipalities	Ongoing

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

No	Key intervention	Responsibility	Timeline
(i)	Deployment of business regulation officers	DSBD	March 2025
(j)	Deployment of the DSBD Connect	DSBD	March 2025
(k)	Roll out of the R500 000 000 spaza shop support fund	DSBD	March 2025
(l)	Ramping up of the clean-up campaign	DFFE; DCoG; Municipalities	Ongoing
(m)	Deployment of Environmental Health Practitioners	DoH; Municipalities	
(n)	Training of officials and monitoring of compliance on Food Safety and Quality Assurance	DSBD	Ongoing
(o)	Management of the national hotline to receive tip-offs on sale of expired foodstuffs	DTIC; National Consumer Commission	Ongoing
(p)	Ongoing Consumer and Business Education	DSBD, DTIC, SABS, SEFDA, SARS, CIPC, NCC and NRCS	Ongoing
(q)	Monitoring of compliance of revised Tuck Shop Guidelines and National School Nutrition Programme Food Handling standards	DBE	Ongoing

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the Portfolio Committee -
 - Note the contents of the presentation and the report on registration of spaza shops and other food handling outlets, and interventions to curb foodborne illnesses (**Annexure A**); and
 - Note the interventions outlined in the action plan to address this matter.

THANK YOU

Ngiyabonga | Re a leboga | Ndo livhuwa | Nndza nkhenisa | Ke a leboha haholo | Dankie | Enkosi