

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MORATORIUM ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

TO ALL GAUTENG LIQUOR STAKEHOLDERS:

In response to institutional and operational challenges relating to liquor licensing in the province, the Gauteng Department of Economic Development will be introducing a moratorium on liquor license applications for a period of six (6) months commencing **Monday, 8th August 2011.**

As the Department, we have engaged in extensive consultations with various stakeholders including liquor trader formations and civil society organisations to develop the Liquor Policy, which is now available for public comment. The consultations helped us identify the many challenges faced by liquor in the province. To address these challenges, we are required to take an extraordinary course of action and we view the moratorium as necessary to allow the Department time to conduct a thorough review and audit of the administrative processes. This will invariably lead to a faster, transparent and more efficient processing of applications and an overall improvement on operations.

It must be noted that I remain fully aware of the adverse effects of the moratorium on business and the economy at large, and efforts will be made to ensure that the negative economic impact of the moratorium is minimised.

Please note that the moratorium will affect the following types of applications in terms of the Gauteng Liquor Act 2 of 2003 as Amended: Section 23 (new licenses), Section 104 (transfer of existing valid licenseto new owner) and Occasional Permits.

All other applications will still be processed as normal by the Department, including Section 40 (appointment of new manager for valid licensed premises), Section 43 (structural changes to valid licensed premises), Conversions and License Renewals. Where appropriate systems have been established and are satisfactorily functional, I reserve the right to lift the moratorium in respect of the relevant section. I trust that the liquor industry will be supportive of the Department during this period. To download a copy of the Gauteng Liquor Policy, please visit the departmental website on www.ecodev.gpg.gov.za

Written comments can be delivered to:

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Department: Economic Development
GAUTENG PROVINCE

GAUTENG LIQUOR BOARD