

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, Ms. FI SERAKALALA ON THE OCASSION OF THE RELAUNCH OF THE MPUMALANGA CONSUMER AFFAIRS COURT AS PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY 2025 HELD AT CHRISTIES GUEST HOUSE IN MBOMBELA, CITY OF MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Thursday, 13 March 2025

Programme Directors, Ms. Brenda Mabaso and Mr. Lemmy Mdluli;
MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela;
MMC for City Planning and Development in the City of Mbombela, Cllr. Morris Mazibane;
Judge President of the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court of South Africa, Judge Segopotje Sheila Mphahlele;
iNkosi SA Nkosi;
Acting Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner of the National Consumer Commission, Mr. Hardin Ratshisusu;
The representative of the University of Mpumalanga;
Education Committee Member, Mr. Daniel Ramarumo;
Officials from government and the University of Mpumalanga;
Distinguished guests;
Members of the media;
Ladies and gentlemen;

Riperile!

1. It gives me great pleasure to stand before you, as we gather to celebrate two significant events: the *relaunch of our Consumer Court* and the commencement of *World Consumer Rights Day* celebrations, which started with build-up events on the 10th of March at KwaMhlanga.
2. The magnificent work by the Consumer Educators and Inspections is highly noted and appreciated. Tonight's cocktail event serves as a reminder of the importance of consumer rights, and how far we've come in empowering individuals and ensuring justice in the marketplace.
3. The purpose of tonight's event is twofold. Firstly, we are celebrating the relaunch of the Consumer Court, an institution dedicated to providing consumers with a platform to seek justice, resolve disputes, and hold businesses accountable.
4. This relaunch signifies a renewed commitment to protecting consumers and ensuring that their rights are upheld with fairness, transparency, and efficiency.
5. Mpumalanga was one of the first Provinces to launch and have a Consumer Court and today we are very excited to indicate the successful endeavour to relaunch the Consumer Court.
6. Greatest appreciation to the steward leadership of the Premier, our MEC, Ms. MC Masilela, supported by the Provincial Legislature that

have been hard at work ensuring that the nomination and appointment of the new Court Members.

7. Secondly, we are here to say thank you for honouring the hosting of the *World Consumer Rights Day* celebrations by Mpumalanga Province. This signals the collective responsibility as different provinces, to collectively raise awareness of consumer rights and the ongoing efforts needed to protect individuals in an ever-evolving global marketplace.
8. It is a day that reminds us of the vital role consumers play in shaping our economic environment, and the importance of policies, laws, and institutions that safeguard their interests.
9. So, let us raise our glasses tonight, not only to the relaunch of the Consumer Court and the celebration of World Consumer Rights Day, but also to the bright future ahead where every consumer's rights are upheld, and justice is always within reach.
10. *Cheers to a fairer, more just marketplace for all.*

Na khensa!