



All bars, clubs and shebeens will soon have to obey the new, stricter rules on alcohol sales.

Tougher liquor licensing ahead

By NIABULO NGCOBO

LOOK OUT for the new alcohol regulations that will apply all over Mzansi.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it would soon start implementing uniform regulations to standardise all the provinces' liquor laws.

SunWellbeing attended the panel discussion on the national liquor norms and standards hosted by the Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication last week.

The National Liquor Norms and Standards 2014, gazetted in February by Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies are set to be enforced shortly.

Chief director at the department's National Liquor Authority, Prea Ramdhuny, said the new regulations will help with law enforcement both at pro-

vincial and national levels.

Mzansi has an estimated 86 000 liquor licencees that are monitored by about 500 liquor licence inspectors.

Under the regulations, traders must make sure they sell no alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 and are compelled to verify age by asking for ID.

The regulations also stipulate shorter trading hours than previously allowed, a call for traders to provide patrons with free tap water and condoms, and prohibits sale of liquor to people who are already intoxicated.

Churchill Mrasi, president of the South African Leisure Tourism and Hospitality, formerly SA Liquors Traders Association, said their members were increasingly complaining about harassment by law enforcers who in-

vade taverns and confiscate alcohol.

"This happens a lot and members feel abused but complying with the regulations and making sure that there are no problems in their operations will help a lot," he said.

Cleo Bodibe-Lushaba, director of client relations management at the Gauteng Liquor Board, said that most liquor sellers in Gauteng townships did in fact hold shebeen permits.

Shebeen permits were previously issued temporarily to liquor traders in an attempt to redress the imbalances of the past.

"Temporary by origin, they were meant to have expired in 2013. But, due to outstanding issues, many of the 15 000 permits in Gauteng are still in circulation," she said.