SERI AND SAITF LAUNCH NEW RESOURCE GUIDE FOR INFORMAL TRADERS

On Wednesday 22 March 2017 from 10:30 to 12:30, SERI, in partnership with the South African Informal Traders Forum (SAITF), is launching a new resource guide for informal traders in Johannesburg. The launch will take place at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (corner of President Street and Harrison Street, Johannesburg).

The resource guide is called Informal Trade in Johannesburg: Your Rights.

Informal traders contribute significantly to South Africa’s GDP and offer affordable goods and services to working class families. However, informal traders make a living in hostile environments. They are regularly the victims of unlawful harassment by the police. Their stock is unlawfully confiscated and never returned. Traders have in the past been evicted from their places of work en masse. They live with an ongoing fear of eviction. Local governments do not protect the rights of people making a living informally in the same way that they do those working in the formal sector.

Despite this, informal traders have found novel ways to hold local authorities to account. Three recent court rulings in Tshwane, eThekwini and Johannesburg confirm that if traders are aware of their rights and how to protect them, they are better placed to resist illegal harassment and clamp downs on their businesses.

Informal Trade in Johannesburg: Your Rights is a resource guide for informal traders making a living in Johannesburg which spells out what their rights are, and what avenues are available to ensure those rights are protected.

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