

FLEAMARKET TRADERS WIN BATTLE

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Two years of battle have borne fruit for more than 120 informal traders at the Church Walk fleamarket (near the Workshop) - they have been told their grievances will be addressed.

And a bonus is an early Christmas gift - they will now pay R25 a day for trading at the fleamarket instead of R50 a day.

The traders, represented by the Organisation of Civic Rights (OCR), also won their two-year fight to fall under the control of the South Central Council.

Previously, the private market master controlled the fleamarket and set the rents. The master also had the authority to remove traders after 24 hours' notice.

OCR chairman Mr. Sayed-Iqbal Mohamed said traders and the council also signed a two-year lease agreement on Monday.

"This is a major victory for the traders. Besides saving more than R600 a month in rentals they will be able to trade daily for two years. A code of conduct will also be drawn up to protect traders and consumers. The council will also benefit - it will receive more than R720 000 a year in rentals from traders," said Mr. Mohamed.

He added his organisation had also been successful in negotiating with the council to pay R50 000 towards the OCR's legal costs arising out of a High Court application brought by the council against the traders who refused to pay increased rents.

The matter was settled out of court.