

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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Health Department cautions consumers against counterfeit and expired food stuffs on Black Friday

Pretoria: The Department of Health would like to urge consumers to be extra careful when buying goods, especially food products during the Black Friday by prioritising quality and safety over prices and quantity to mitigate against buying counterfeit, substandard and expired foodstuffs.

Black Friday deals provide consumers with much needed discounts and savings on a variety of goods, however it is important for consumers to guard against purchasing counterfeit and expired foodstuffs by thoroughly checking food labelling and expiry dates on food items to prevent food poisoning as a result of illicit and expired foodstuff.

Consumers are reminded to be on the lookout and report any suspicious goods sold by the outlets and retailers to Environmental Health Practitioners or Health Inspectors at their nearest municipal offices or Consumer Goods Council of South Africa. Everyone has got a role to prevent production and selling of counterfeit, substandard and expired foodstuffs detrimental to human health.

Tips to identify possible illicit food products

- Check if manufacturing and expiry date are not adulterated with or damaged, or not clearly visible.
- Avoid food items with damaged, broken or leaking packaging even if it smells and looks good.
- Assess product appearance and inconsistencies in the texture, smell or colour of the actual food product compared to the original brand.

Consumption of expired and counterfeit foods has potential to cause serious health risks, including food poisoning, allergic reactions and long-term health complications.

The Department has been working closely with different stakeholders to raise public awareness about the dangers of consuming counterfeit and expired food products to keep the public safe.

People are urged against buying nor consuming highly perishable food products with damaged packaging or lapsed expiry dates,

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

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