



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

### MEDIA ALERT

Thursday: 04 April 2024

### EXPIRED PRODUCTS ON SUPERMAKET SHELVES

The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism hereby notifies all consumers to check expiry dates on all foodstuff sold by any seller or store prior to any exchange of goods for cash.

Consumers are timeously tricked into buying of expired goods, goods without visible expiry dates printed on the product or even price cuts on expired goods or goods nearing expiry dates. Sellers usually or even intentionally present expired goods on shelves with the aim of maximizing profits by advertising lower prices for such goods.

As the Limpopo Department responsible for consumer protection, we consider it a criminal offence to sell or offer to sell any food product which is contaminated or unsafe for consumption by the consumer. The Department hereby calls upon all businesses to refrain from presenting expired products on shelves as well as removal from sale all contaminated products or unsafe foodstuff.

The Consumer has the right to alert the store manager on any expired perishable products on the shelves and request the store to immediately remove such products from the shelves.

The consumer has the right to alert health authorities on sale of expired goods should they feel that such sale is deliberate.

However, the seller has the right to place marked-down prices on any perishable goods before reaching expiry dates, it is therefore the responsibility of the buyer to check such expiry dates and make a decision on whether to buy or not, as well as how much quantity to purchase.

The business has the responsibility to refund all expired products which were purchased unaware of the expiry date.

Businesses do not reserve the rights to amend, re-print or scratch-out expiry dates from goods supplied by the manufacturer aimed at selfish and ill-considerate profit boosting at the expense of the consumer.

The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is highly passionate about consumer protection and prides itself of hosting the Consumer Court which has during the past years continued to win almost all cases in favor of the Consumer.

**For more information, please contact:**

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