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PRESS RELEASE

Food Regulation in Rwanda

Kigali, February 14, 2020 – In a bid to protect the public health, the Rwanda FDA regulates and assures safety, efficacy and quality of processed foods on Rwandan market. The regulations of food products are a meticulous exercise that Rwanda FDA conducts by ensuring that all food processing industries, importers, manufacturers and distributors of food products are registered and regularly inspected.

Since its establishment, the Rwanda FDA carried out mapping activities to learn the status of the food sector and learn their compliance towards the standards in place. The 3 months mapping exercise acted as a baseline to identify the gaps within the food sector and propose ways in which the Government of Rwanda can provide support for improvement.

Inspections of food products are conducted regularly at the distribution or processing site to ensure packaging and raw materials, storage facilities, processing equipment, personnel and staff hygiene, among others, comply with the safety standards. Rwanda FDA checks for shelf life of products and examines authorized food additives to make sure that the right doses of preserving products are being applied. Food additives like any other products is harmless when consumed at required doses for example in preservation of meat the authorized additives Colorozo (E250) and Sodium Metabosulfite (E223) are unsafe only when an inaccurate dose is used.

Rwanda FDA has conducted Post Market Surveillance and collected products to be sampled for quality control lab tests. Tests were performed on fisheries and red meat samples for formalin and the results were negative. Samples were taken from different levels of the supply chain (central stores, importers, district level and retailers). Products to be sampled are selected based on customer complaints, reports from health facilities and high-risk products including those that are likely to cause serious diseases. Post market surveillance is regularly conducted and the Authority receives daily reports on suspected poor-quality products and when they fail physical tests and visual inspections, they are removed from the market.

Rwanda FDA assures the public that food safety concerns are closely followed and urges everyone to report any suspicious food products.

About RWADA FDA

Rwanda FDA is established by the law n° 003/2018 of 09/02/2018 to protect public health by regulating and assuring Safety, Efficacy and Quality of Human and Veterinary medicines, vaccines and other biological products, processed foods, poisons, medicated cosmetics, medical devices, household chemical substances, tobacco & tobacco products and inspecting of clinical trials.

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