



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Media Statement

To: All Media Houses
For Immediate Release
06 November 2024

Limpopo Department of Education intends to lift the suspension of food sales with conditions.

The Department has issued a communique to lift the suspension of food sales with conditions. Schools and vendors are given until 11 November 2024 to ensure that they fully comply. The lifting is aimed at actualising the EXCO directive and providing further conditions under which food sales can take place at schools.

"The safety of learners remains a key priority for the Department, with the lifting of the suspension of food, we hope that food vendors will adhere to all the regulations and work closely with School Governing Bodies." Said Acting-HOD, Martin Mashaba.

CONDITIONS FOR RESUMPTION OF FOOD SALES

1. Vendor Registration and Contract with SGB

All food vendors operating within school premises must have a formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the school Governing Body (SGB), outlining roles and responsibilities of vendors and specify adherence to food safety and nutrition standards required by the Department of Education.



2. Health and safety Certification

Vendors are required to have a valid certificate of Acceptability (COA) from the department of health, affirming compliance with hygiene standards for food premises under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972. This certification ensures all food handling, storage, and preparation is carried out in a manner that meets public health requirements.

3. Adherence to Nutritional Standards and Safe Food Practices

Vendors are required to stock and sell items constantly with the nutritional guidelines set forth in the NSNP guidelines for Tuck Shop Operators, promoting healthy food choices such as fresh fruits, low- sugar beverages, and other nutritional balanced items. Vendors must avoid selling processed or high-fat foods, such as fried items and sugary snacks, as recommended.

4. Verifiable Documentation of Food sources.

All food vendors serving schools will be required to maintain verifiable documentation demonstrating the origins of their products. This includes receipts and invoices detailing suppliers, purchased dates and product descriptions. This measure will enable authorities to trace product origins and hold suppliers accountable for food safety.

5. Ban on unsafe snacks

A ban will be imposed on the sale of snacks from brands identified to contain foreign objects or lacking expiry dates. This is a crucial step on safeguarding the learners from potential harm.

6. SGB Responsibility for Food Safety

The SGB holds ultimate responsibility for the safety of food sold by vendors in school premises. To ensure compliance, the SGB is expected to;

A. Regularly monitor vendor operations to verify adherence to health, safety and nutritional standards.



B. Retain authority to sanction or terminate the agreement of any vendor found non-compliant with the NSNP guidelines or health and safety requirements.

C. Keep a database of approved vendors and meet regularly to assess the vendor's performance and compliance with the SLA.

The department will consult with the SGBs, School principals and SMT members ahead of the deadlines set.

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