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Consumer Council of Fiji



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PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 – Consumers Warned about Unauthorized COVID-19 Test Kits

Fijian consumers are urged to be on the lookout for retailers, marketing unproven and unauthorized products for diagnosing, preventing, or treating COVID-19. It has been brought to the Council's attention that COVID-19 test kits are now being advertised for retail in the Fijian market.

The Council has also sought clarification from Ministry of Health and Medical Services only to be informed that no such authorization has been given by them to any local retailers to sell any such kits. "The consumers must remember unauthenticated kits not only pose serious health risk to them but to the whole nation. It may also keep them away from seeking care and delay required medical treatment when needed," said the Chief Executive Officer.

Consumers are urged not to fall prey to such unscrupulous retailers who take advantage of a crisis to deceive them and profiteer. Additionally, it is crucial for consumers to save the money for future use as we know clouds of uncertainty looms during this challenging time.

As for now, consumers should take heed of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health and Medical Services of Fiji's guidelines and protective measures against COVID-19. If consumers think they have symptoms of COVID-19, advice from the doctors or nearest health centre must be sought or simply contact the emergency phone numbers provided by Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Only then can medical providers advise consumers on whether they should get tested and the process for being tested with an appropriate test.

Consumers are requested to report to the Council via National toll-free line 155 or email Complaints@consumersfiji.org, should they come across any retailer selling related products for COVID 19.

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