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Consumer Council of Fiji



www.consumersfiji.org



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26 November 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Consumers Advised to Be Wary of Flood Damaged Goods

Members of the public are advised to exercise heightened caution when making purchases during the current period of heavy rainfall and flooding that continues to affect parts of the country. As Fiji moves through the peak of the wet season, the risk of compromised or unsafe goods entering the market increases, and consumers are urged to remain vigilant to protect both their safety and their finances.

The Council warns that floodwaters can compromise the safety and quality of essential food items such as canned goods, flour, rice, dhal, and other staples. These products may have been exposed to moisture or contaminated conditions, which can lead to spoilage, compromised packaging, or potential health risks. Consumers are urged to check for swelling or rusting on cans, tears or dampness in packaging, and any unusual odors or discoloration before making a purchase, and to seek clarification from traders where necessary. The public is also reminded to be careful when purchasing frozen or perishable food items, as prolonged power outages associated with adverse weather can compromise the quality and safety of meat, seafood, dairy, and other chilled products. Any signs of thawing, spoilage, or damaged packaging should be treated as warning indicators.

Consumers should also be mindful of furniture, mattresses, and second-hand vehicles that may have been affected by floodwaters and later put up for sale. The Council stresses the importance of thoroughly inspecting such items and seeking full transparency from sellers before committing to a purchase.

CEO Seema Shandil emphasized the importance of being alert at this time, stating, “Periods of severe weather often create opportunities for unscrupulous practices, and it is crucial that consumers remain alert and informed. If an item has been damaged by floodwaters, it must be properly disposed of and not resold at a cheaper price, a practice we have unfortunately witnessed in previous years. We urge retailers to uphold their obligations and act responsibly, and we encourage consumers to report any concerns so that the Council can take appropriate action.”

The Council will continue to monitor the marketplace and urges consumers to report any misleading or unfair trading practices. For assistance or to lodge a complaint, consumers may

Head Office

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contact the National Consumer Helpline on 155 or reach out through the Council's social media platforms.

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