

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT - NOTICE TO SCHOOLS, CORPORATE AND HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

FDA/CSD/CPE/PRS/24/004

6th February 2024

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) brings to the notice of the public that, a Food Service Establishment operating without a valid Food Hygiene Permit from the Authority is in violation of Section 130 (1) of the Public Health Act 2012 (Act 851) which states that, “A person shall not manufacture for sale, sell, supply or store products regulated under this Part except in premises registered for that purpose under this Part.”

For the purposes of this notice, a “Food Service Establishment” is an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption such as a restaurant, bakery, canteen, online food business, institutional caterer, chop bar and fast-food service.

In view of the above, canteens of schools, hospitals and all corporate institutions are to ensure that their food service facilities are inspected and licensed by FDA and are also advised to only contract the services of licensed caterers for catering of corporate meetings/lunches and daily meals for students and patients.

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Institutions are therefore advised to insist that vendors who apply for or are awarded contracts must, as part of the institution's requirements, provide valid Food Hygiene Permits. Institutional canteens or caterers who do not have the Food Hygiene Permits must immediately take steps to regularize their activities with the FDA, by applying for the Food Hygiene Permit and making their facilities available for food safety inspections.

This is to ensure that only safe food is served to students, workers and patients of your establishments and also to prevent the risk of food borne illnesses. The FDA cannot guarantee the quality of operations and safety of food prepared by establishments that do not have valid Food Hygiene Permits. Please note that a list of licensed Food Service Establishments is available on our website or can always be requested from any of our offices nationwide.

The public is also advised to only contract the services of and patronize establishments that have obtained a valid Food Hygiene Permit from the Authority as the FDA

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cannot guarantee the quality of operations and safety of food sold in unlicensed Food Service Establishments.

All unlicensed Food Service Establishments are therefore cautioned that failure to acquire the Food Hygiene Permit by 29th February 2024 would attract the requisite regulatory sanctions which may include closure of facilities, fines and/or criminal prosecutions.

The public is being encouraged to always look out for the Food Hygiene Permit which **MUST** be displayed at a point at the facility visible to the public, and to report Food Service Establishments that do not have the Food Hygiene Permit to the FDA on the following numbers:

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Signed

Chief Executive Officer
Food and Drugs Authority

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