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NRCS rural engagement strategy bearing positive fruits, says NRCS CEO Edward Mamadise

Addressing scores of people at the Empa Primary School Sports Grounds in Qunu village, CEO of the National Regulator for Compulsory specifications (NRCS) Mr Edward Mamadise applauded the Regulator's rural engagement campaign saying it is bearing positive fruits and changing the lives of many South Africans particularly in rural villages.

He was addressing the 6th NRCS rural engagement campaign alongside government leaders, traditional leaders and law makers to mention just a few.

"We have been traversing the country as a Regulator educating people and inspecting businesses and now we can see that a lot has changed since we started this campaign in Limpopo many months ago. Many businesses are now compliant and aware of the regulations we administer. Furthermore, consumers are starting to appreciate the work we do as NRCS. We need to enhance this campaign and ensure that we reach all rural consumers to ensure that they are protected from unsafe and harmful products," concluded Mamadise.

Echoing Mamadise's sentiments, Executive Mayor of the King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Local Municipality, Councillor Nyaniso Nelani called on the NRCS to be consistent in its inspection and education work to ensure that

rural communities benefit from information around product safety. "You are running a noble campaign that seeks to protect the poorest of the poor in our society and the Municipality will always partner with your organisation to address issues of non-compliance in our cities and towns", said Executive Mayor Nelani.

The objectives of the campaign are among others, to raise awareness on the dangers of substandard products that consumers in rural areas are exposed to on a daily basis, improve intergovernmental cooperation and to facilitate service delivery where compliance and the provision of safe consumer goods is concerned.

This is part of the NRCS mandate of promoting the safety of consumers, the environment and ensuring fair trade. The campaign will be rolled out in other various provinces of the country to ensure that rural communities like any other consumers, are able to distinguish non-compliant products from compliant ones.

The event, which was held in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the KSD Local Municipality, was preceded by market surveillance inspections in Mount Frere, Qumbu Mthatha and Mqanduli where thousands of products worth more than R700 000 were confiscated.

Below are the pictorials:



NRCS introduces new compulsory specifications, moves to ban the sale of incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs in South Africa

In order to drastically reduce electricity consumption and promote energy saving in the country, the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), has introduced two new compulsory specifications (VC's 9109 & 9110) to respond to the energy crisis that is crippling the South African economy and destroying livelihoods.

The two compulsory specifications, VC 9109, for energy efficiency and functional performance requirements of general service lamps (GSLs) and VC 9110, safety requirements for general service lamps, will go a long way in addressing the country's energy crisis. They aim to advance safety, performance and energy efficiency of light bulbs sold in South Africa. Additionally, they also aimed at eliminating inefficient and environmentally damaging lighting products.

The Regulator, through these regulations, intend to phase out all inefficient electric lamps used for general lighting by 2026 and to ensure safety of consumers against non-compliant lamps that are offered in the market.

The regulations will be implemented in two phases - with the first phase commencing in May 2024 and will introduce the minimum energy efficiency level for general service lamps use in the South African market.

Phase 2 will come into effect in May 2026 to further improve the efficiency levels in order to completely phase out the use of incandescent

and Compact Fluorescent Lamps for general lighting in South Africa.

These regulations will further promote the use of much more efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology in order to contribute to the much needed reduction in electricity demand and electricity cost for consumers.

LED lamps are by comparison 85% more efficient to incandescent lamps and 40% efficient to compact fluorescent lamps. LED lamps have a longer life span of up to 20 000 hours (approximately 12 years if you assume 4 hours of operation per day) and they do not contain toxic gases such as mercury which is normally used in CFLs.

It is expected that the introduction of these regulations will save consumers up to R12 billion over a 15-year period and energy savings of about 300 Gigawatts over a 10-year period and they come at a much-needed time for the country as it battles to meet the high electricity demand.

Important to note is that these regulations will not apply to lamps used for specialised applications such as, lamps used as agent in chemical or biological processes, image capturing & projection and in signalling.

All suppliers of general service lamps will be required to apply for the NRCS Letter of Authority (LOA) certificate before any electric lamp is offered for sale.



1. Incandescent lamps



2. Compact fluorescent lamps



3. LED lamps

Partnership is key to strengthen food safety measures, says **NRCS** CEO Edward Mamadise

Addressing hundreds of people including food processors, emerging and established farmers at the Lucas Moripe Stadium earlier today, CEO of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) Mr Edward Mamadise called on all role players in the food industry space to work closely together to ensure that no life is ever lost due to foodborne diseases in South Africa.

He was speaking alongside government and international leaders at the commemoration of the World Food Safety Day (WFSD) held at the iconic Lucas Moripe Stadium in Atteridgeville, Gauteng province. “In 2018, our country experienced difficult times battling the listeriosis outbreak which took many lives and I stand here today to reassure all present here that as NRCS and our partners, we will do everything in our power to ensure that such occurrences never happen again”.

“I call upon everyone to join forces and practice food safety. Working together with other Regulators, the NRCS which I lead, will endeavour to ensure that Food Standards are always harmonized with Codex Alimentarius General Principles of Food Hygiene which describe the basic conditions and practices expected for foods intended for internal trade and other food standard setting bodies, thus to ensure that it respond to the basic conditions and food safety risks to save lives of the consumers”, concluded Mamadise.

Commemorated and observed under the theme - Food Standards save Lives, the annual commemorative event since 2019, is aimed at transforming food system in order to deliver better health system and prevent foodborne diseases to ensure the protection of the consumers worldwide.

The NRCS plays a critical role of ensuring the safety and compliance of fishery products, canned and processed meat products. This is achieved through the development of compulsory specifications which are enforced, this in line with the mandate of the organisation of protecting the health and safety of consumers

while ensuring fair trade. The Regulator supports and complements other key policies around compliance and enforcement and therefore work in collaboration with other critical stakeholders, to collectively enable the best possible standards and food control systems.

The collaborations are aimed to ensure food is safe, thus to protect customers and facilitate fair trade practices in line with the Food Safety Regulatory in alignment with the mandate of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition **(the dtic)**.

The commemorative event was also addressed by the Gauteng Health and Wellness MEC, Nomantu Nkomo Ralehoko, Mr Owen Khaluwe from the World Health Organization (WHO), National Department of Health and the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to mention just a few.

Below are the pictorials:



NRCS declares war on the sale of acid washed refurbished domestic geysers across the country

Following numerous tip-offs, consumer and industry alerts regarding the unlawful sale and advertisement of acid washed refurbished domestic geysers across the country, the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) has declared war on all manufacturers and distributors of such substandard and harmful products.

Several inspections conducted by the NRCS across the country revealed that refurbished geysers do not comply to VC 9006, Compulsory Specification for hot water storage tanks and do not have a Letter of Authority (LOA) to be traded in the South African market and can cause severe damages to households and human life.

Selling substandard, refurbished geysers expose consumers to hazards such as:

- Explosion,
- Leaking water from shell,
- Acid exposure as some are acid washed,
- compromised quality of stored water due to acid used,
- Electric shock,
- Tempered insulation causing consumers to pay high electricity bills

NRCS has thus far issued directives preventing the sale and advertisement of these non-

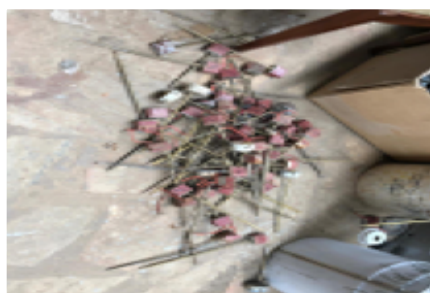
compliant geysers and further steps to confiscate and destroy such geysers are to be implemented soon. Most of these geysers are being replaced due to leaking shell which is likely to happen after five (5) years life span. Re-welding the shell will mean the geyser has to be subjected to full safety tests before it can be offered for sale again. Last year, the Regulator confiscated thousands of substandard geysers in Gauteng and will intensify its efforts to stop the spread of this illegal trade across the country.

The Regulator further warn all industry players, contractors, insurance companies, consumers and other interested parties not to manufacture, sell, buy or use non-compliant second hand or refurbished domestic geysers.

The Regulator follows a rigorous administrative and technical process in evaluating LOA applications before issuing certificates. The LOA is a certificate issued to a manufacturer or importer in terms of section 5(2) (f) of the NRCS Act once compliance is determined therefore permitting the sale of a product.

Enforcing VC 9006 is in line with the NRCS's mandate of protecting human health, safety, the environment and ensuring fair trade as well as rooting out non-compliant products in the market.

Below are some the pictorials of the refurbished domestic geysers:



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