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MEETINGS BETWEEN TFDA, LOCAL FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND FOOD IMPORTERS

The Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) has organized a two days meeting with local food manufacturers and food importers from Dar es Salaam region to discuss among other things, strategies for effective and efficient regulation of foods and promotion of food industry as well.

Currently, TFDA is facing a number of challenges in enforcement of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act No.1 of 2003 including promotion of voluntary compliance by both local food manufacturers and food importers thus posing food safety risks for foods consumed.

The first meeting between TFDA and food importers is scheduled for 11th February, 2009; while the second one is 12th February, 2009. A total of 80 food importers and 73 local food manufacturers have been invited to attend the meetings.

The two meetings will be held at TFDA Head quarters conference hall and will be officiated by Guests of Honor the Chief Medical Officer (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare), Dr. Deo Mutasiwa, and the Director of Preventive Services, Dr. D. Mbando under the same Ministry during the 1st and 2nd meetings respectively.

Various papers will be presented by TFDA facilitators aiming at:

- Enabling food importers to know the requirements as stipulated in the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003 and Regulations made there under.
- Imparting knowledge to local food manufacturers on the legal requirements for food manufacturing.
- Encouraging voluntary compliance with legal requirements by Local food manufacturers as well as food importers.
- Discussing strategies for effective and efficient compliance with the legislation, increasing competitiveness of the food produced at both local and international markets as a result of compliance with quality and safety specifications hence promoting growth of the food industry in the country.

It is expected that during the meetings TFDA, local food manufacturers and importers will discuss and come up with agreement to effectively regulate food and related products in Tanzania so that the public is protected from health hazards associated with the use of those dubious products.