



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEC KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA INSPECTS SPAZA SHOPS AROUND HLUHLUWE

A number of expired food items and other packaged products with fake barcode labels have been confiscated during a spaza shop inspection drive in Hluhluwe, on the KwaZulu-Natal north coast.

The inspections were led by Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, who's also the MEC Champion for the uMkhanyakude District Municipality. She was joined by Big 5 Hlabisa Local Municipality Mayor Comfort Khumalo, law enforcement agencies that included SAPS and municipal traffic officers, and Home Affairs.

Commenting during the inspection, KaMadlopha-Mthethwa said this was done to enforce the laws of the country and for the retailers and spaza shops to comply with health and safety regulations pertaining to the handling of food.

Confiscated products were either expired or had incorrect barcode labels. "The inspections were done to enforce the laws governing food handling and labour laws. The retailers and spaza shops must comply with the health and safety regulations of the country," said MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

Since the outbreak of suspected food poisoning incidents, the province has recorded three deaths of children. The three pupils, aged 2, 6, and 11, died after consuming snacks from a local spaza shop in uMzumbe on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast. The Premier of the government of KwaZulu-Natal, Thamsanqa Ntuli, has instructed all MECs and government officials to conduct regular spaza shop inspections in a bid to ensure the health and safety of all citizens of the province. Ntuli himself has been leading unannounced inspections in Newcastle and Estcourt.

MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa has heeded Ntuli's call, adding that the labour department, home affairs, and municipal officials must lead inspections from time to time to ensure that food handling compliance is adhered to and spaza shops must always strive to improve their services to their customers.

The second leg of the program saw the MEC in a community engagement at Phumlani Community Hall, where 750 locals benefitted from agricultural programmes such as mechanisation, seeds, seedlings, fertiliser, and production inputs.