TDB removes substandard milk products from supermarkets in Dodoma Region

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) has seized and removed from the market some counterfeit and unlicensed milk products alleged to be smuggled into the country by unscrupulous traders.

The crackdown conducted by the state-owned board at different retail shops and supermarkets within the Dodoma capital city also saw TDB removing into the markets some expired milk products.

The board registrar, Dr George Msalya named some of the illegally imported milk products as Nura, KCC, Brookside, Aptamil, NIDO Forti Croissance, Cow & Gate, and sma PRO.

"The government has allowed importation of milk products for different reasons, the imported products must be of the required quality and standards," said Dr Msalya urging traders to abide by the set regulations and importation procedures.

He said the board will take measures against any of the traders violating the country laws by allowing importation and circulation of substandard milk products into the market.

"Importation and selling of substandard and unlicensed milk products have multiple health risks for consumers. It also weakens the country's economy because importers do not pay the relevant taxes to the government," he noted.

Dr Msalya said traders will face legal punishments and pay fines to a tune of between 2.5m/- and 5m/-. He said that traders are required to seek approval from TDB and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) before importing such products.

According to him, most of the products are smuggled from South Africa, Germany, Netherland, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, USA, Ireland and Dubai.

He said the board will continue to inspect retail shops and supermarkets to ensure all the sold products are of recommended standards.

TDB's Legal Officer, Edwin Bantulaki, said they have so far conducted similar inspection exercises in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Kahama regions.

"We found most of the counterfeit and expired milk products in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma supermarkets. We are working to ensure no such products are circulated in our local market," said Bantulaki, adding that the board will conduct inspections to the remaining regions.

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Wafugaji wadai kutozwa faini bila risiti

Na Pendo Thomas, KIGOMA

WAFUGAJI jamii ya Wasukuma kutoka Kijiji cha Mgambazi wilayani Uvinza wamelalamikia kuvamiwa na Askari wa Wanyamapori waliokusanya ng'ombe majumbani na kuwalazimisha kulipa zaidi ya Sh. milioni 30 pasipo kupewa risiti.

Wafugaji hao wanadai kuwa walivamiwa na askari hao na kuchukuliwa mifugo yao kwa madai ya kuchanganyika na wakulima na wafugaji.

Kwa mujibu wa wafugaji hao, kutokana na uporwaji wa mifugo yao na vitendo vya vitisho walivyofanyiwa, wameiomba serikali kuingilia kati, ili warudishiwe fedha zao.

Hollo Machia, mmoja wa wafugaji hao, alisema siku ya tukio, askari walifika nyumbani kwake wakiwa na silaha wakamwambia aswage ng'ombe kupeleka eneo la jirani ambalo kulikuwa na mifugo ya watu wengine.

Alisema baada ya agizo hilo, alilazimika kutekeleza kwa kuogopa kujeruhiwa na silaha walizokuwa wamebeba.

Mfugaji mwingine, Kazinza Malekana, alisema siku ya tukio alijaribu kuuliza uhalali wa wanachokitekeleza, lakini aliwekwa chini ya ulinzi na kuambiwa hapaswi kuuliza sana maswali ikiwamo kutishiwa silaha.

"Tulijitetea sana lakini wakatuambia msipotoa hizo pesa mifugo yote tunaondoka nayo kuelekea ofisi za wilaya, hivyo hatukuwa na namna ikabidi tutekeleze maagizo yao," alisema.

Saamoja Madoshi, Mwenyekiti wa Wafugaji katika Kitongoji B Mgambazi, alisema mbali na Sh. milioni 30 kutozwa kama faini, kuna takribani ng'ombe 70 walipotea, hivyo wanaomba serikali isaidie kurudishwa mikononi mwao.

"Tunashangaa kwa nini tumetozwa faini kwa makosa tusiyoyajua na bila kupewa risiti, alisema.

Baada ya tukio hilo, alisema waliamua kufuatilia katika ofisi ya wilaya kufahamu undani wa tukio hilo kwa kuwa wahusika waliwaambia wanatekeleza agizo kutoka wilayani.

Mkuu wa Wilaya ya Uvinza, Hanafi Msabaha, alisema alipata malalamiko hayo kutoka kwa wafugaji na tayari amechukua hatua za haraka za kuchunguza madai hayo.

Alisema opereshani halali aliyokuwa na taarifa yake ni ukaguzi wa maeneo ya hifadhi tofauti na malalamiko yaliyo mfikia.

Msabaha alibainisha kuwa wameanza kuchunguza uhalali wa mifugo ilipo kwa kuwa wafugaji wanasema ilikuwa kwenye makazi yao na walioendesha doria wakisema ilikuwa hifadhini. Pia alisema wanachunguza suala la uhalali wa faini walizotozwa na kama kweli fedha hizo zimeingia serikalini.

"Kutokana na malalamiko hayo nimesimamisha oparesha-ni hiyo hadi tutakapojiridhisha kama ilifuata utaratibu au la," alisema.

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Dairy board impounds fake milk products

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) has inspected, seized and removed from the market different counterfeit and unlicensed milk products that have been smuggled into the country from varied countries by some unscrupulous traders.

Moreover, the vital crackdown conducted by the state-owned board at different retail and supermarkets within the capital city Dodoma also managed to identify and remove from the market expired milk products.

The Registrar of Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), Dr George Msalya, named some of the illegally imported milk in question as Nura, KCC, Brookside, Aptamil, NIDO Forti Croissance, Cow & Gate, and sma PRO, among others.

"The government has allowed importation of milk products from outside the country for different reasonable purposes, but the milk to be imported must be of the needed quality and standards, and the traders must abide the set regulations and procedures," he told the 'Daily News'.

He added that the board would not tolerate seeing some unpatriotic traders turning the country into the 'dustbin' of substandard milk products from abroad.

"Importation and selling of substandard and unlicensed milk products have multiple health risks for the consumers, and apart from that, the move also weakens the country's economy because the importers are running away from paying deserved taxes to the government," he insisted.

Dr Msalya said according to regulations, traders who are found with unwanted milk products face a fine of between 2.5m/- and 5m/- as well as other legal actions.

"Apart from imposing them with the said fines, we're also educating them on how they are supposed to abide by the set procedures and regulations for the importation of milk, which among others include seeking approval from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)," he noted.

He named the countries from which the substandard milk products in question are often smuggled from as South Africa, Germany, Netherland, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, USA, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates.

"I am appealing to traders and other investors to consult the TDB and other relevant authorities in case of importation of milk so that they can be on the safe side, but also ensure the safety of users," he insisted.

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MTAJI

Serikali kukipiga jeki kiwanda cha Saafi

Sumbawanga. Serikali imepanga kuwekeza kwenye kiwanda cha kusindika nyama cha Sumbawanga Agricultura and Animal Food Industry (Saafi) kukiongezea uzalishaji.

Akiongea alipotembelea kiwandani hapo, Waziri wa Nchi Ofisi ya Waziri Mkuu (Uwekezaji), Geoffrey Mwambe aliyeambatana na Waziri wa Mifugo na Uvuvi, Mashimba Ndaki, amesema Serikali itachambua kwa kina uwekezaji wa kiwanda hicho kuona namna ya kukiwezesha kuzalisha kwa ufanisi zaidi.

"Nimeambiwa kiwanda kinayo masoko nchini Comoro, Zambia na Dubai. Kiwanda hiki kitaongeza faida kwa Wanasumbawanga, vijana watapata ajira, wafugaji watapata soko la mifugo yao na nchi itapata fedha za kigeni kwa kuuza nyama nje ya nchi," amesema Mwambe.

Waziri amesema uwekezaji katika Mkoa wa Rukwa ni muhimu kwa kuwa upo kwenye lango la soko la Jumuiya ya Maendeleo Kusini mwa Afrika (SADC).

Waziri wa Mifugo na Uvuvi, Mashimba Ndaki amesema kiwanda hicho kikiwezeshwa kitakuwa muhimu kwa wafugaji wa mkoa huo kupata soko.

Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa kampuni ya Saafi, Theresia Zumba Mzindakaya ameishukuru Serikali kwa kuendelea kuwasaidia kuhakikisha kinazalisha kama inavyotakiwa.

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