



LAUTOKA CITY COUNCIL MONITORS FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS



All the Food Business Operations within the jurisdiction of Lautoka City Council have been subject to routine inspections, restaurant grading including instituting of applicable enforcement mechanisms and legal proceedings. Routine work is conducted as required by the relevant food safety legislations to ensure that food is prepared, handled, stored and sold under safe, hygienic and sanitary conditions to ensure that the health and quality of life of members of the public is safeguarded and promoted.

The Council has so far achieved 95 % of grading exercise for the eateries within the city area. The grading exercise has been carried out after series of awareness on Good Hygiene Practices and Food Establishment (Grading) Regulation 2012 for all owners of catering premises.

Members of the public are advised that grade cards are usually displayed either on the frontage of the eateries or on the menu boards. Grade cards are issued upon audit carried out of the eateries using official grading checklist. The audit reveals the compliance level in terms of good hygiene practices and food safety. Grade card “A” indicates highest level of compliance being 90% or more followed by “B” grade which denotes compliance level of 80 % to 90 %. “C” grade denotes lower compliance rating of 70% to 80 %. “D” grade indicates lowest level of compliance being less than 70% and these eateries are issued with abatement notices to rectify the non-compliances.

The purpose of the grading exercise is to ensure the safety of food and quality of conditions and services in all eateries. More so, creating awareness to consumers about the hygiene status of eateries and assist them in making an informed decision in terms of their choice of eatery to buy food.

Citizens are informed that the council also instituted legal proceedings against sixteen (16) Food Business Operators for contravention of Food Safety Act 2004 and Food Safety Regulation 2009. Restaurants and even other Food Business Operators found operating under insanitary and unhygienic conditions are issued Abatement Notice under Section 51 of the Food Safety Act 2003. The Council has even issued five (5) Order of Closures to restaurants failing to comply with the Abatement Notices.

Council looks forward to cooperation of all stakeholders in ensuring good health and safety of the members of the public.

