

TFDA impounds over 10 million/- worth of food items in Arusha

**By Lusekelo Philemon,
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DEEMING them unfit for human consumption, Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) has impounded various food items that are estimated to value over 10m/- from a number of Arusha based businesses.

The impounded food stuffs were apparently ordered to be removed from the market over a year ago but a score of unscrupulous traders have defied the government order and

refused to take them off their shelves.

"The crackdown followed a tip off by good Samaritans," conceded TFDA's northern zone manager, Damas Matiko.

Speaking to press over the weekend in Arusha, he said the products include popular staples like pre made chapati produced by a major Dar es Salaam-based business conglomerate.

"We have impounded 12 cartons of beef, 44 cartons of tilapia fish and 90 cartons of chapatti," he listed.

He also revealed that some of

the items were found in a Kenyan company owned warehouse, Alpha Foods Ltd but he did not specify as to whether the items found in that warehouse were imported or made in the country.

Matiko said all the impounded items were inspected and found to be expired and unfit for human use but that dishonest businessmen were relabeling them with altered expiry dates and selling them to the public.

"We have impounded stickers of expired dates... this means that the perpetrators changed the

labels replacing them with fake dates to deceive the consumers and the authorities but the inspection proved the items to be unfit," the official said.

TFDA will now pursue legal action against the traders and "...we will then destroy the products..." Matiko said calling on the public to be vigilant and take extra care when buying goods from any market outlet.

"It is important for a buyer to look carefully at the labeling and especially the expiry dates and anything that seems out of place should be reported," he advised.