

PUBLIC NOTICE

UPDATE : MARWAKO FOOD POISONING INCIDENT

The Food and Drugs Authority wishes to update the public on the on-going investigations into the suspected food poisoning incident at the East Legon branch of Marwako Fast Food Limited.

Analyses of samples of food, some juice drinks, and swabs taken from the environment at the East Legon branch of Mawarko Fast Food Limited indicate that there was heavy microbial load (pathogens) which may be linked to the food borne disease reported. Samples collected from the Abelenkpe and La branches were also found to be heavily contaminated.

The levels of sanitation and hygiene in the food preparation areas in all three facilities were poor.

It was also established that there were poor storage practices. The temperatures of deep freezers and refrigerators were far above the acceptable ranges. The handling practices of ingredients used in cooking, cooked and ready-to-eat food items were also very poor.

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The process to establish the root cause of the contamination has been unfortunately hampered by the unapproved and unilateral decision of the management of Marwako to destroy some of the food items whilst the investigation was in progress. The FDA has applied the appropriate regulatory sanctions and is also monitoring the implementation of the corrective and preventive actions (CAPA) by the management of Marwako Fast Foods to address all the non-conformances identified to prevent any reoccurrence.

We wish to assure the public that we will continue to closely monitor all activities at Marwako Fast Foods Limited to ensure compliance to the FDA's directives and applicable regulatory requirements. Catering services at the facilities remain suspended. The public would be updated on any subsequent developments.

Chief Executive Officer
Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana

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