



Consumerfair
A national voice for consumers

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CALL FOR DISBANDMENT OF ALL HALAAL CERTIFYING AUTHORITIES

The National Consumer Forum Western Cape hereby calls for the immediate disbanding of all Halaal Certifying Authorities as they continue to fail their constituency the Muslim Community. With the latest round of labeling fraud allegations it has become clear that non of the current certifiers have the necessary competence to ensure that Muslims eat food according to their specific dietary requirements.

In the wake of the ORION Cold Storage Scandal and after the report from the Independent Halaal Review Panel we would have expected these institutions to have upped their game, but instead the constant barrage of mislabeling and deliberate label fraud continues unabated. Their focus appears to remain unchanged in selling Brand Islam to the highest bidder with absolutely no concern for the Muslim Consumer in whose name they continue to issue Religious Franchises.

The uproar in the Christian Community about the Religious Taxes imposed upon them by the Muslim Clergy seems to become increasingly justified as their continued bungling keeps the issue alive in the collective South African conscience. Their lack of competence by their own admission even after all the scandals speaks volumes. The lack of access to the requisite laboratory facilities despite the huge amounts of Religious Taxes collected by these so-called Halaal Authorities is a serious indictment.

We stand by our previous position that there should be only one Halaal Certifying Authority sanctioned by an Act of Parliament with Halaal Specific Regulations written into the Consumer Protection Act. This body should have the requisite competence including DNA testing and should charge only a minimal administrative fee to cover their hard costs. The remainder of their costs should be funded by the Muslim Community whose specific dietary requirements are being catered for.

We applaud the position taken by the Jamiattul Ulema KZN to no longer be involved in Halaal Certification due to the complex nature of this process. We appeal to and demand that the remaining Halaal Certifiers dissolve and form a single body that will seek recognition from the State and the necessary legislated powers to act against violators of Halaal requirements.

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