

# **HARAAM**

## **EARLY BIRD CHICKENS**

EARLY BIRD CHICKEN FARM has been certified 'halaal' by SANHA. Sanha had appointed two Malvis (Moulana A. S. Doba and Moulana I. Khan) to be its 'Halaal' inspectors/supervisors at Early Bird's slaughtering plant in Standerton. Early this year (2008) Early Bird Farm, after having been taken over by Tiger Brand, in a bid to increase production instructed that the slaughterers should slaughter 48 chickens per minute. Since it was virtually impossible for the *Thaabiheen* (slaughterers) to ensure that the Shariah's system of *Thabah* be sustained and maintained if the ridiculous number (48 per minute) insisted by management be complied with, the two inspectors refused to submit to the imposition. It was impossible for the *Thaabiheen* to slaughter 48 chickens per minute and at the same time recite the Waajib *Tasmiah* (*Bismillaahi Allaahu Akbar*) for hours on end. It should be understood that a shift consists of six hours.

When Early Bird's management insisted on their new demand of 48 chickens per minute, the two inspectors/Supervisors were convinced that they would not be able to maintain the Halaal standard required by the Shariah. Their conscience constrained them to resign. Their resignation was neither announced to the Muslim community nor were the reasons for the resignation revealed. The matter was hushed up by SANHA. Moulana A. S. Doba, in a telephonic discussion, had explained the reasons for the resignation of the two supervisors.

This grave discrepancy in terms of the Shariah was reported to Attorney Zehir Omar in Springs. The Attorney wrote the following letter to EARLY BIRD CHICKENS:

*"Dear Sir/Madam, We act on behalf of and are instructed by Scholars of the Truth.*

*It has come to the attention of our clients and the Muslim community at large that Moulana A. S. Doba and Moulana I. Khan (the SANHA appointed supervisors) have recently resigned. The reasons given by the said supervisors for resigning are their reservations in regard as to whether the chickens slaughtered by you are indeed slaughtered in a manner to render them halaal, as in their opinion, it is highly unlikely that the requirement of 48 chickens per minute be slaughtered, can also conform to the requirements which makes such slaughtering halaal.*

*Should you contend the above not to reflect the correct state of affairs, we request you provide us with the reasons for their resignation. Your failure to do so shall be construed as an admission that the above is indeed true. ....*

*In the light of the above, it is apparent that a large proportion of the Muslim community does indeed already regard your chickens to be haraam, thereby refraining from purchasing same.*

*Note that a large proportion of the Muslim community and organizations, including our clients are increasingly losing confidence in SANHA for, among other reasons, its monetary interests in matters. However, our clients do not intend making any unsubstantiated statements/reports but would rather like to bring clarity to the matter for the benefit of the Muslim community. For this to be achieved your co-operation is required, failing which, we shall deduce that it cannot be independently proven that your chickens are halaal. We shall then have no choice but to inform the Muslim community that in our client's opinion, the chickens are not halaal and provide them with the reasons as explained above including your unwillingness to co-operate. This shall be advertised extensively so as to provide the Muslim community with the state of affairs.*

*Should you be confident that your chickens are halaal, we are sure that you shall not object to randomly permit a committee to attend at your premises unannounced for inspection. Any prior arrangement shall defeat the purpose of the inspection.*

*We trust the above to be in order and await your urgent response hereto.*

*Yours faithfully*

**ZEHIR OMAR ATTORNEYS**

Zehir Attorneys wrote the afore-going letter on 30 May 2008. Early Bird Chicken Farm chose to ignore the letter. On 3 July 2007, Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs Attorneys without responding to the letter which Zehir Attorneys had written to Early Bird Chickens, wrote on behalf of their client, to Zehir Attorneys as follows:

*"Dear Sirs,*

**ENQUIRY INTO WHETHER CHICKEN SLAUGHTERED BY EARLY BIRD FARM ARE HALAAL**

1. We advise that we act on behalf of Early Bird Farm. Accordingly, any future correspondence regarding the above matter should be addressed to us.
2. We are advised that several articles with comments attributed to you and regarding our client have been published in a local newspaper widely circulated in the Standerton area. We are further advised that the comments are disparaging and defamatory of our client.
3. We advise that our client is Halaal. Accordingly, should you have made the disparaging and defamatory comments as alleged, we request that you retract the comments and forthwith desist from such unlawful conduct. In this regard, we look forward to your written undertaking.
4. In order to protect its good name and reputation, our client is exploring the possibility of claiming damages it has suffered as a result of the publication of the falsehoods. In that regard our client's rights are reserved."

**RESPONDING TO EARLY BIRD'S ATTORNEYS, ZEHIR OMAR ATTORNEYS WROTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED 3 JULY 2008:**

**EDWARD NATHAN SONNENBERGS ATTORNEYS**

Dear Sir/Madam

The above matter refers. Our response hereunder is directed to you on two assumptions: The first is that the letterhead of Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs is being abused. The second is that your letter is an authentic letter from Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs.

**1. OUR RESPONSE BASED ON FIRST ASSUMPTION**

Use of the word "are" in your heading is grammatically wrong. This is so because your heading refers to chicken in the singular. We are too busy to dignify a further response.

**2. OUR RESPONSE BASED ON THE SECOND ASSUMPTION**

Our annexed letter dated 30 May 2008 clearly reveals the identity of the entity we act for. Can your threat to sue our firm be remotely constructed to be an answer to an issue that strikes at the heart of our client's Iman (Faith)?

If your threat to sue our firm is designed to dissuade us from advancing our client's rights protected by s34 of Act 108 of 1996, you may then be descending into odious, unacceptable and unethical conduct.

Your client's delay in answering our client's concerns expressed in our annexed letter dated 30 May 2008 strengthens our clients' suspicions about the chickens slaughtered by you client being Haraam. It will be wise for your client to let us have a comprehensive response to our letter dated 30 May 2008 within 48 hours.

Your threat to sue our firm passes us by like the idle autumn winds – we are strengthened by honesty.

Yours faithfully

**ZEHIR OMAR ATTORNEYS**

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**48 CHICKENS - 48 TASHIAHS  
PER MINUTE!**

According to Moulana A. S. Doba and Moulana I. Khan, both of Standerton, and who were formerly SANHA-appointed 'halaal' inspectors/supervisors at EARLY BIRD CHICKEN FARM in Standerton, the management had demanded that production be stepped up. The stepped-up production imposed on the *Thaabiheen (Slaughterers)* was the virtual impossible burden of slaughtering 48 chickens per minute.

In consequence of the impossibility of meeting this ludicrous and haraam demand, the two Supervisors resigned. Their resignation and the reasons therefore were not explained to the Muslim community whom SANHA expects to consume the *maitah* (carrion) it certifies.

The Muslim community should reflect and try to understand the actual purport of slaughtering 48 chickens a minute. Along with the slaughtering, the Shariah requires that the Tasmiah, *Bismillaahi Allaahu Akbar*, be recited on every chicken simultaneous with the act of *Thabah* (slaughter). The Tasmiah has to be recited more than a quarter million times daily by the *Thabiheen*. Four six-hour shifts are worked day and night. It is common knowledge that the *Thabiheen* are not of the Auliya category of human beings. If they were remotely in proximity of the *Wilayat* classification, they would not be slaughtering animals in a haraam manner for 24 hours, day in and day out, year in and year out nor would they have been miles within the confines of a slaughtering plant.

The entire set-up of *all* commercial slaughtering plants is *Haraam*. Every step without exception in the slaughtering process is *Haraam*. The hearts of the *Thabiheen*, the inspectors/supervisors, and worse, the manufacturers and fabricators of 'halaal' certificates have become transformed into stone, or as the Qur'aan Majeed states, '*Harder than stone.*', in consequence of the ugly and haraam profession in which the whole miserable lot of participants and organizers are insanely entrapped.

It is inhuman to expect that every chicken of the millions and millions of birds which are slaughtered in a haraam manner is blessed with the *Tasmiah*. Muslims are consuming haraam *maitah* by the ton. The *maitah* is not restricted to Early Bird Chickens. Every commercial slaughtering and processing plant churns out haraam *maitah* (carrion). It is time that Muslims wake up and understand what exactly is being consumed when these so-called 'halaal' chickens are devoured gluttonously.

The salient features of the battery, plastic chicken industry is brutality, cruelty and insensitivity, and all measures involved in the production of these chickens from the time they are hatched to the time that the carrion is packed and sold, are *Haraam*. The intelligence of a Muslim with healthy Imaan cannot accept that these processed chickens produced and slaughtered in totally haraam conditions could ever be halaal. Muslims should desist from soothing their conscience, or more appropriately, smothering their Imaani conscience with the argument of 'halaal certification'. Such certification covers even najaasat, *maitah* and even if animal excreta and human faeces are commercially packed in embellished plastic packages, there will be haraam 'halaal authorities' ready to certify as halaal such filth and poison. Money is the determining factor underlying the 'halaal' certificate industry. Their hearts and Imaan have been killed by the inordinate lust for money.

It is imperative – *Waajib* – for Muslims to totally abstain from consuming the haraam carrion of processed chickens of all producers. There is not a single commercial plant which produces halaal chickens. Scraps of paper called 'halaal certificates' do not render these chickens halaal. The Qur'aan Majeed commands: "*O People! Eat from the earth halaal and tayyib (foods), and do not follow in the footsteps of shaitaan (by consuming haraam carrion and filth). Verily, he (Shaitaan) commands you with evil and immorality, and that you fabricate (lies) about Allah such allegations about which you have no knowledge.*"

Guard your physical and spiritual health by abstaining from these haraam processed chickens which are certified 'halaal' by men whose brains have become deranged in consequence of 'following in the footsteps of shaitaan'.

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## **THE THREAT TO SUE**

Early Bird Chicken Farm has threatened to sue Zehir Omar Attorneys for having exposed from the Islamic perspective a grave malpractice which has surfaced at the chicken processing plant. Early Bird's lawyers in claiming that their client is 'Halaal' have demonstrated palpable ignorance of the issue which Zehir Omar Attorneys are handling.

Perhaps it is Sanha's constitutional right to label haraam chickens as 'halaal'. According to the secular constitution of the land, every peanut and pumpkin have the right of freedom of speech, thought, belief, religion, etc. If Sanha has a constitutional right to believe what it wishes to believe, and

to say that a product which according to us is haraam, is halaal, then it will be salubrious for both Sanha and Early Bird, as well as their lawyers, to understand that besides our inherent Islamic right and sacred obligation and duty, it is our constitutional right to proclaim their chickens to be haraam and maitah in terms of our beliefs and concept of the Shariah.

Early Bird's lawyers appear to be blissfully ignorant of the constitutional and religious rights of the Ulama and the Muslim community. The arrogation by Early Bird of 'halaal' status for its *maitah* on the basis of Sanha's certification does not and cannot preclude the Ulama, the true authorities of the Shariah, from proclaiming Early Bird's products as Haraam. If a product is haraam according to our belief and perception of the Shariah, we cannot be muzzled by Early Bird acting on the basis of a certificate issued by an entity such as Sanha which in reality is a non-entity in terms of the Shariah which we espouse and uphold.

Early Bird and its lawyers relying on the scrap of paper issued by Sanha stand no chance of success in a court of law. It is our constitutional right to propagate that Early Bird's chickens are HARAAM. We have no reason whatsoever to believe that the chickens slaughtered at Early Bird are halaal. Everything at Early Bird is shrouded in secrecy. Only Sanha's men are permitted to inspect the plant. But Sanha's word in terms of the Shariah is unreliable and unacceptable.

In fact, in terms of even the secular law, Sanha's 'halaal' certification is not a mandatory decree which could be rammed down the throats of the Muslim community. Early Bird's belief that it is 'halaal' on the basis of Sanha's certification cannot be presented as a negation of our right, religious and constitutional, to believe and claim that Early Bird is in fact Haraam.

Early Bird's attorneys appear to be in a daze in view of the haze which Sanha's 'halaal' certificate has churned up. It will benefit Early Bird and its attorneys to understand that Sanha has no Divine Writ, and has no jurisdiction over the Ulama nor over the Muslim community nor over anyone. Sanha is a commercial venture. It engages in the trade of selling 'halaal' certificates which in our belief system is haraam. Sanha has a vested interest in Early Bird Chicken Farm. It receives remuneration of hundreds of thousands of rands annually from Early Bird in the form of haraam *riba* which is camouflaged and embellished with the deceptive appellation, 'royalty'. In terms of the Shariah, royalty is nothing but haraam *riba*. Thus, Sanha's certification is devoid of substance.

If Early Bird's lawyers believe that their threat to sue will dissuade us from proclaiming that Early Bird chickens are Haraam, they are then labouring under a colossal misapprehension. We unequivocally claim that **EARLY BIRD CHICKENS ARE HARAAM, and so are all processed chickens of all processing plants.**

## **ANSWERS THEY OWE THE MUSLIMS COMMUNITY**

Secrecy and non-co-operation will neither promote nor safeguard the 'halaal' status which Sanha has awarded to Early Bird Chickens in lieu of a few hundred thousand rands a year. Early Bird Chicken Farm according to one of Sanha's ex-supervisors has been taken over by Tiger Brand. The new management had demanded that production be stepped up. The demand was for 48 chickens to be slaughtered per minute. The plant operates 24 hours a day.

Early Bird Chicken Farm has selected to ignore the letter of Zehir Omar Attorneys, dated 30 May 2008. It has refused to clarify its position. Both Early Bird and Sanha are obliged to answer the following questions of the Muslim community:

- (1) Why did the two Sanha-appointed supervisors resign early this year?
- (2) Is Early Bird currently slaughtering 48 chickens per minute?
- (3) What was the view of the two supervisors regarding the issue of 48 per minute?

Muslims who consume Early Bird Chickens on the basis of Sanha's certification are entitled to answers to these questions. The threat of suing does not address these concerns of the Muslim community.

ISSUED BY:

**SCHOLARS OF THE TRUTH**  
**P. O. BOX 1461**  
**LENASIA**