Food and Safety By-Law No. 5 of 2023

Malampa Provincial Government Council

The Malampa Provincial Government Council has established the **Food and Safety By-Law No. 5 of 2023** under the Decentralization Act [CAP 230]. The By-Law sets out requirements to promote **safe food handling, hygiene, storage and preparation** within Malampa Province.

It applies particularly to the sale of cooked food by food stalls and vendors operating within the **Area Councils**, including food stalls and open vendors in **Lakatoro, Norsup, Litzlitz and Tautu** areas.

Food Safety and Hygiene Requirements

All owners and vendors selling cooked food must comply with the following requirements:

- Food must be prepared in accordance with the **Public Health Act [CAP 234]**.
- Food must be prepared and handled in a clean and hygienic environment.
- Raw and imported food must be stored properly to prevent **cross-contamination**.
- Food must be kept **above ground level** and protected from contamination.
- Cooking and eating utensils must be kept clean and free from dust and dirt.
- Food preparation areas, working benches and surrounding areas must be maintained in a clean condition.
- Vendors must maintain good **personal hygiene** when handling and preparing food.

Vendor Requirements

Anyone selling cooked food within the designated areas must:

- Obtain **food safety and storage certification from the Ministry of Health**; and
- Carry or display their **personal identification** at all times while operating as a food vendor.

Food Stall Permit

Owners of food stalls must apply to the Malampa Provincial Government Council for a **permit to prepare and sell cooked food**.

- **Permit application fee: VT 2,500**
- The application fee is **non-refundable**.

Food Stall Tax and Fees

A food stall owner is required to pay a **VT 5,000 tax** to an authorised Council officer. The tax applies for the duration of the agreement between the vendor and the Council.

The applicable fees must be paid **before occupying a food stall**. Where payment is not made within **30 days of the due date**, the Council may recover the outstanding amount as a civil debt.

Food Safety Inspections

The Malampa Provincial Government Council is required to conduct **at least two inspections per quarter** of food stalls to ensure compliance with the food safety and hygiene requirements of the By-Law.

Inspections may focus on food preparation, storage, personal hygiene, cleanliness and other food safety standards.

Enforcement

The By-Law may be enforced by a **Provincial Health Promotion Officer** or another person appointed by the Malampa Provincial Government Council.

Offences and Penalties

A person who fails to comply with the requirements of the By-Law commits an offence and, upon conviction, may be liable to a **fine of up to VT 30,000**.

Where the fine remains unpaid, an additional **VT 1,000 per day** may apply until the outstanding fine is paid.

Commencement

The **Food and Safety By-Law No. 5 of 2023** commences on the day it is published in the **Vanuatu Gazette**.

For further information on food stall permits, food safety requirements and inspections, please contact the Malampa Provincial Government Council.