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AFRICA COMMUNITY MEDIA



■ Transnet National Ports Authority has appointed Zutari for the implementation plan for the Port of Durban. Full story on page 2

Spaza shops in spotlight after children's deaths

DOREEN PREMDEV

Twenty-two children around the country have lost their lives due to food borne illnesses. President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced decisive measures to address the recurrence of such incidents. These include the immediate closure of spaza shops implicated in the deaths and stricter regulations to protect communities.

Addressing the nation from the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Friday November 15, President Ramaphosa outlined three critical interventions to be implemented with immediate effect.

"Following the special meeting of Cabinet, we have decided to make the following interventions: The first intervention is to get hazardous pesticides off the street, the second critical intervention is to protect children from exposure to these substances, the third critical intervention is to prevent future outbreaks. The following measures

will be implemented with immediate effect," the President said.

He added that the spaza shops which have been implicated in the deaths of children will be closed with immediate effect. Non-compliant businesses and shops linked to any poisoning incidents or found to unlawfully stock hazardous chemicals will be shut down. To ensure compliance, all spaza shops and food-handling facilities must register with their respective municipalities within 21 days. Any shop that is not registered within 21 days and does not meet all health standards and requirements will be closed.

President Ramaphosa's address comes in response to 890 reported cases of food-borne illnesses across the country, with Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu-Natal (KZN), Limpopo, Free State, and Mpumalanga the hardest hit.

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