



## **NATIONAL CONSUMERS FORUM**

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### **REF: COVID-19**

To all Consumers and Merchants,

As the country is going through the hustle of the COVID-19, we the people of Seychelles are being affected in two ways:

- 1- The risk of travelling, gathering and socializing are becoming a problem.
- 2- Consumers are panicking, thus enticing to panic buying.

We understand the result of the first reason, we have to prevent ourselves from being contaminated from the virus, through passive transmission, that is by touching contaminated surfaces, or getting in contact with other people who have been in contact with the carriers of the virus.

But the second reason is inadmissible and not logic. In this moment of despair, some people are capitalizing on consumers. They have already inflated the prices of commodities in the shops. Though we are in a liberal market country, this practice is morally acceptable. NATCOF strongly condemn this practice. These goods were already in the country, there have been no increase in fuel, and instead it has gone down. These basic hygienic products that were selling at reasonable prices are now been sold 2 or 3 times more, just because people are in dire needs to use them.

Merchants should realize that in doing so, you are preventing vulnerable consumers from buying goods that can save their lives. NATCOF is urging all merchants to do their business in the spirit of sustainable consumers. You sell them goods at a reasonable price, you keep your consumers. You sell them goods whose prices are enormously inflated; you force them to go and buy somewhere else.

Mr. Freddy Lesperance

Chairman NATCOF