

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

The Danger of Using Detergent in Fufu Production

The Rivers State Ministry of Health strongly warns against the use of detergent or other harmful chemicals in the production of Fufu.

Recent reports from a radio station in the state indicate that some individuals are using detergent as an additive to speed up processing and increase profit margins in Fufu production.

This practice poses serious health risks and is strictly prohibited. Detergents are not consumable items.

Health Risks of Consuming Detergent-Tainted Food:

- **Toxicity and Poisoning:** Detergents contain harsh chemicals that can cause poisoning, leading to nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea.
- **Organ Damage:** Prolonged ingestion of detergent can damage vital organs such as the liver, kidneys, and lungs.
- **Gastrointestinal Irritation:** The chemicals in detergents can cause severe irritation, ulcers, and internal bleeding in the digestive system.
- **Hormonal Disruptions and Long-Term Health Effects:** Many detergents contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals that may lead to reproductive issues and an increased risk of chronic diseases such as cancer.
- **Food Contamination and Public Health Threats:** The use of detergents in food processing undermines food safety and can lead to widespread health crises, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

Legal Implications:

The use of non-food-grade substances in food production violates national and international food safety regulations. Offenders risk legal action, including fines, business shutdowns, and

imprisonment.

Call to Action:

- Food Producers: Use only approved food-grade ingredients and follow best practices in food hygiene and safety.
- Consumers: Be vigilant and report any suspicious food production practices to relevant health authorities.
- Regulatory Agencies: The Ministry of Health will work with other regulatory stakeholders to strengthen monitoring and enforcement to uphold food safety standards.

Food safety is a collective responsibility. Let us all work together to ensure that our food is safe and free from harmful chemicals.

Say NO to using detergents in Fufu and other food production!

For more information or to report food safety violations, contact:

The Public Health Department of Rivers State Ministry of Health or call - 08056109538 or 08065825186.

Dr Ndubuisi Akpuh,

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For Honorable Commissioner for Health Rivers State.