



Press Release

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY

THE GLOBAL VOICE FOR CONSUMERS

2016 Theme: "ANTIBIOTICS OFF THE MENU"

In Vanuatu some activities were scheduled for the first time to mark the day 15 March where all consumers around the world take a moment to remember their rights and responsibilities exercised and will be exercised on their daily living operations.

15 March this year, 2016 is the day where Consumers in Vanuatu are reminded to exercise their rights and responsibilities to help reduce consumption of meals and drinks containing anti-biotic.



Source (<http://www.consumersinternational.org>)

The overuse of antibiotics is creating highly resistant superbugs. Without urgent action, we are heading for a post-antibiotic era, in which important medicines stop working and common infections and minor injuries can once again kill.

Around 50% of the world's antibiotics are used in agriculture. With almost 100,000 restaurants worldwide, McDonald's, Subway and KFC are in a position to use their huge buying power to make a big difference to the global supply chain.

15 March is World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD), an annual occasion for celebration and solidarity within the international consumer movement. It marks the date in 1962 President John F Kennedy first outlined the definition of Consumer Rights. WCRD is an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all consumers, for demanding that those rights are respected and protected, and for protesting the market abuses and social injustices which undermine them.

WCRD was first observed on 15 March 1983, and has since become an important occasion for mobilizing citizen action.

On 15 March 2016, consumer groups around the world will join together to promote ways on how to tackle a major international public health crisis.

TRR, in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Health are involved in organizing some awareness activities to promote the day and its theme for the citizens of Vanuatu. Tuesday 15th March 2016, from 2.00pm to 3.00pm live on FM107. A live panel discussion will take place at the time where panelists will discuss real life issues that have impacted and impact the health of the people of Vanuatu as a result of excessive use of antibiotics incorrectly.

Vanuatu Consumers are alerting Authorities Concern, Importers, and Restaurants including Chinese Take away to make commitments to reduce rates of importing or cooking meals that contain antibiotic that will cause crisis to individual and public health. And by doing so, TRR is requesting citizens that have access to Telecommunications/ICT tools to use them effectively to educate and become aware of the health impact and cause of excessive consumption of food or drinks that contain anti-biotic.

Globally, Consumers International and their members are calling on the world's largest fast food companies to make global commitments to stop serving meat from animals routinely given antibiotics used in human medicine.

It is anticipated that this first celebration event would attract more consumer organizations in Government and civil society to participate in future celebrations and also that it will raise the awareness that consumers of goods and services have the right to correct services provided at the correct and justifiable prices and qualities.